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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN SUDAN, ZAIRE, IRAN, CUBA, SOUTHERN LEBANON, HAITI, EQUATORIAL GUINEA

Decides to Appoint Special Rapporteurs on Human Rights in Sudan And Equatorial Guinea; Slovenian Foreign Minister Addresses Commission

GENEVA, 10 March (UN Information Service) -- The Commission on Human Rights, expressing deep concern over human rights violations in the Sudan, this morning, decided to appoint a special rapporteur to investigate the situation of human rights in that country, by one of four resolutions voted upon as the Commission took action on 11 texts.

Also by that resolution, which was adopted by a roll-call vote of 35 in favour to 9 against, with 8 abstentions, the Commission called on all parties concerned to permit international agencies, humanitarian organizations and donor Governments to deliver humanitarian assistance to the civilian population in the Sudan. Acting without a vote, the Commission expressed its serious concern at the persistence of politically motivated violations of human rights in Equatorial Guinea and decided to appoint a special rapporteur to make a thorough study of the violations of human rights by the Government.

By another action taken without a vote, the Commission deplored the continuing serious violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Zaire and noted with indignation that force was used systematically to prevent and suppress peaceful gatherings and demonstrations. It expressed concern over the deterioration in Shaba province, where the authorities had primary responsibility for fresh outbreaks of ethnic tensions.

By a vote of 23 in favour to 11 against, with 14 abstentions, the Commission expressed deep concern at continuing reports of violations of human rights in Iran, including the high number of executions and the discriminatory treatment of certain groups of citizens for their religious beliefs, notably the Baha'is. It also expressed grave concern over the continuing threats to the life of a citizen of another State which appeared to have the support of the Government of Iran.

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In another action, the Commission condemned the ongoing Israeli violations of human rights in southern Lebanon, including arbitrary detention of civilians, the demolition of their homes and the confiscation of their property. By a vote of 50 in favour to none against, with no abstentions, the Commission demanded that Israel put an immediate end to those practices and implement the two Security Council resolutions calling for its unconditional withdrawal from all Lebanese territory.

Deciding to extend for a further year the mandate of its Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cuba, the Commission called upon the Cuban Government to permit him to carry out his mandate by allowing him to visit the country. It regretted profoundly the numerous unanswered reports of violations of basic human rights which were described in the report of the Special Rapporteur and expressed particular concern over increasing intolerance for freedom of speech and assembly in Cuba. That resolution was adopted by a vote of 27 in favour to 10 against, with 15 abstentions.

Regarding the situation in Haiti, the Commission condemned the continuing seriousness of the human rights situation, which had been characterized by murders, disappearances and assassinations, preventive repression, persecution, arbitrary detention, torture and extortion of money from citizens by security agents. The Commission called upon the Government of Albania to continue to adopt legislative and administrative measures to meet all human rights requirements. It urged parties to the conflict in Afghanistan to undertake all possible efforts in order to achieve a comprehensive political solution.

In addition, the Commission called for world-wide efforts to address the serious problems resulting from mass exoduses of refugees and displaced persons, as well as the causes of such exoduses. By another resolution, it urged all Governments to refrain from acts of intimidation or reprisal against those who sought to cooperate with representatives of United Nations human rights bodies.

Also this morning, Lojze Peterle, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Slovenia, addressed the Commission. Warning that there was a real danger that the war and atrocities now taking place in Bosnia and Herzegovina might intensify and spill over into neighbouring areas, he called for immediate action to put an end to the massive and flagrant violations of human rights there.

Action on Resolutions

Under the provisions of a resolution on the situation of human rights in the Sudan (document E/CN.4/1993/L.32), the Commission expressed its deep concern over the serious human rights violations in that country, including summary executions, detentions without due process, forced displacement of persons and torture. It urged the Government of the Sudan to fully respect human rights and called on all parties concerned to cooperate in order to ensure such respect. The Chairman of the Commission was requested to appoint a special rapporteur to investigate the situation of human rights there.

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By the same text, the Commission requested the special rapporteur to establish direct contact with the Government and with the people of the Sudan and to submit a report to its fiftieth session. It called upon the Sudanese Government to extend full and unreserved cooperation to the special rapporteur, including free and unlimited access to any person in the Sudan. All parties to the hostilities were strongly urged to redouble their efforts to negotiate an equitable solution to the civil conflict.

Furthermore, the Commission called on the Government to ensure that an independent judicial inquiry commission conduct a full, thorough and prompt investigation on the killings of Sudanese employees of foreign relief organizations operating in the country. It further called on the Government to bring to justice those responsible for the killings and to provide just compensation to the families of the victims. The Commission called on all parties concerned to permit international agencies, humanitarian organizations and donor Governments to deliver humanitarian assistance to the civilian population as well as to cooperate with the initiatives of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs to deliver assistance to all persons in need.

A. SHIDO (Sudan), speaking before action on the draft, said a working group had studied the report of the Independent Expert on the situation in the Sudan and had recommended, by consensus, an extension of his mandate for another year. It had also recommended keeping the Sudan under the 1503 procedure until the Commission's fiftieth session. Although the situation in his country was like that of seven others, the Sudan had been singled out by the United States to go public, and it had done so. Now the United States was asking the Commission to endorse the appointment of a special rapporteur to replace the Independent Expert, who had been appointed following a proposal by the United States last year and whose mission had not been completed. The decision to adjourn the debate under the 1503 procedure had resulted in great harm to his country and could reflect negatively on the peace process already under way. He invited the Commission to remedy that harm by being fair and just, and called on it not to endorse the draft resolution.

The draft resolution was adopted by a roll-call vote of 35 in favour to 9 against, with 8 abstentions. The vote was as follows:

In favour: Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Barbados, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Japan, Lesotho, Mauritius, Mexico, Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Tunisia, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela and Zambia.

Against: Bangladesh, China, Cuba, Indonesia, Iran, Libya, Malaysia, Pakistan and Sudan.

Abstentions: Burundi, Guinea-Bissau, India, Kenya, Mauritania, Nigeria, Sri Lanka and Syria.

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M. HUSSAIN (Pakistan), speaking in explanation of vote, said there was duality and selectivity in the approach of some delegations. While some human rights situations were condemned, others were ignored. Moreover, he felt heartened by the peace talks under way concerning the conflict in the Sudan.

By a resolution on the situation of human rights in Zaire (document E/CN.4/1993/L.33), the Commission deplored the continuing serious violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in that country, particularly the practice of torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment, arbitrary detention and incommunicado detention, inhuman and degrading prison conditions, especially in the detention centres administered by the army, enforced disappearances, summary and arbitrary executions of persons who had exercised their right to freedom of opinion and expression, and denial of the right to a fair trial.

In addition, the Commission noted with indignation that force was used systematically to prevent and suppress peaceful gatherings and demonstrations. It expressed its concern over the deterioration of the situation in Shaba province, where the authorities had primary responsibility for fresh outbreaks of ethnic tensions and for the forced displacement of 20,000 persons. It further expressed concern over discriminatory measures affecting persons belonging to minority groups. It recommended that the thematic rapporteurs and working groups of the Commission should continue to keep a close watch on the situation of human rights in Zaire.

Concerning the situation of human rights in Iran (document E/CN.4/1993/L.35), the Commission expressed deep concern at continuing reports of violations of human rights there, particularly the criticisms made by its Special Representative on that country's situation, namely: the high number of executions, cases of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; the standard of the administration of justice; the lack of guarantees of due process of law; discriminatory treatment of groups of citizens due to religious beliefs, notably the Baha'is; restrictions on the freedoms of expression, thought, opinion and the press; and the situation of women that, as noted by the Special Representative, left much to be desired.

In addition, the Commission expressed grave concern over the fact that, contrary to the Special Representative's recommendation, the application of the death penalty had increased. Concern was also expressed over the continuing threats to the life of a citizen of another State, which appeared to have the support of the Government of Iran, and whose case was mentioned in the report of the Special Representative. The Iranian Government was called upon to intensify its efforts to investigate and rectify the human rights issues raised by the Special Representative and to comply with international human rights instruments. Endorsing the view of the Special Representative, according to which the international monitoring of the human rights situation in Iran should continue, the Commission decided to extend his mandate for a further year. It called on Iran to cooperate fully with him.

S. NASSERI (Iran), speaking before action on the draft, said the cooperation of his country with the Commission had reached the highest stage.

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In the past, dialogue and further discussion had taken place in good faith. The Western sponsors of the draft resolution had been incited by what they believed to be an increase in the number of executions in Iran. His Government had tried to stop the activities of the drug lords in the country by hampering their safe passage to the West. The United States, the United Kingdom and other Western countries had supplied Iraq with all the weapons which killed civilian Iranians. He called on those States to accept their responsibilities.

Mr. HUSSAIN (Pakistan) said he would vote against the draft because it appeared that Iran was being picked on for political reasons. If there were a consistent, uniform, across-the-board policy on human rights, the backers of that proposal would have pursued the same measures against Iran's former regime, which had been one of the most repressive ever in the third world.

A.A. GUBARTALLA (Sudan) said he would not support the draft because the Commission was becoming heavily politicized and the text was just another example of selectivity and non-objectivity.

The draft resolution was adopted by a roll-call vote of 23 in favour to 11 against, with 14 abstentions. The vote was as follows:

In favour: Australia, Austria, Barbados, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Netherlands, Peru, Portugal, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States, Venezuela and Zambia.

Against: Bangladesh, China, Cuba, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Libya, Malaysia, Pakistan, Sudan and Syria.

Abstentions: Angola, Burundi, Colombia, Cyprus, Gabon, Gambia, India, Lesotho, Nigeria, Poland, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Tunisia and Uruguay.

By a draft resolution on the situation of human rights in Cuba (document E/CN.4/1993/L.37), the Commission called upon its Government to permit the Special Rapporteur to carry out his mandate in full, particularly by allowing him to visit the country. It expressed particular concern over the Government's failure to carry out its commitment to cooperate with the Commission. Profound regret was expressed over the numerous unanswered reports of violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms as described by the Special Rapporteur, particularly those relating to increasing intolerance for freedom of speech and assembly in Cuba.

Also by that text, the Commission called upon the Cuban Government to carry out measures recommended in the report of the Special Rapporteur to bring the observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms there up to universally recognized standards. It further called upon the Government to end all violations of human rights, including the detention and imprisonment of human rights defenders and others engaged in the peaceful exercise of their rights. Deciding to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for one year, the Commission also recommended that its existing mechanisms, in

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particular the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention and the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture, continue to give attention to the situation in Cuba and, if appropriate, consider visiting it.

J. PEREZ NOVOA (Cuba), speaking before action on the draft, said that for several years the Commission had grossly distorted the principles for examining human rights, based on the attitude of the United States towards Cuba. The draft was arbitrary and discriminatory, and had the sole purpose of destroying the Cuban revolution. Those joining the United States had abandoned noble principles and had sold their votes to the highest bidder. The draft did not correspond in any way to the reality in Cuba. It was one of a long list of aggressive and hostile acts carried out by the United States against Cuba and which had gravely injured the human rights of the Cuban people. The United States could not care less about human rights in Cuba; that was simply a political measure and an undignified farce.

The draft was adopted by a roll-call vote of 27 in favour to 10 against, with 15 abstentions. The vote was as follows:

In favour: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Barbados, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Japan, Mauritius, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States and Uruguay.

Against: Angola, China, Cuba, Guinea-Bissau, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Libya, Sudan and Syria.

Abstentions: Brazil, Burundi, Colombia, India, Lesotho, Malaysia, Mauritania, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, Venezuela and Zambia.

The Commission, by a resolution on cooperation with representatives of United Nations human rights bodies (document E/CN.4/1993/L.80), urged Governments to refrain from all acts of intimidation or reprisal against those who sought to cooperate or had cooperated with representatives of such bodies, including those who had submitted communications under procedures established by human rights instruments and those who were relatives of victims of human rights violations. Representatives of United Nations human rights bodies were requested to continue taking urgent steps to help prevent the occurrence of intimidation and reprisals.

Under a resolution on the situation of human rights in Albania (document E/CN.4/1993/L.85), the Commission called upon that country's Government to continue adopting legislative and administrative measures to meet all requirements of the human rights covenants and other international instruments, by which freedom, democracy and the rule of law would be further consolidated and the human rights of all Albanian citizens, including those belonging to minorities, would be effectively promoted and guaranteed. The Commission encouraged technical cooperation between the Albanian Government and the Centre for Human Rights as well as the Voluntary Fund for Technical

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Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights, on the basis of the agreement concluded on 13 February 1992.

By a resolution on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan (document E/CN.4/1993/L.87/Rev.1), the Commission urged all Afghan parties to undertake all possible efforts to achieve a comprehensive political solution, which was the only way to bring about peace and the full restoration of human rights in that country. Such a solution should be based on the free exercise of the right to self-determination, including free elections, the cessation of armed confrontation and the creation of conditions for the free return of over 4 million refugees to their homeland in safety and dignity.

In addition, the Commission urged the unconditional release of all prisoners detained without trial on Afghan territory by rival groups. It called upon the authorities to investigate thoroughly the fate of those persons who had disappeared during the conflict, to apply amnesty decrees equally to all detainees, to reduce the period during which prisoners await trial, and to treat all prisoners, especially those awaiting trial or those in custody in juvenile rehabilitation centres, in accordance with the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.

Also by the text, the Commission made an urgent appeal to Member States and humanitarian organizations to continue to promote the implementation of the projects envisaged by the Coordinator for Humanitarian and Economic Assistance Programmes relating to Afghanistan as well as the programmes of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). It strongly urged all the parties to the conflict to undertake all necessary measures to ensure the safety of the personnel of humanitarian organizations involved in the implementation of programmes of humanitarian and economic assistance. It also urged the Afghan authorities to extend their full cooperation to the Commission and to its Special Rapporteur.

By a resolution on the human rights situation in southern Lebanon (document E/CN.4/1993/L.90), the Commission condemned the ongoing Israeli violations of human rights there, particularly arbitrary detention of civilians, the demolition of their homes, the confiscation of their property, their expulsion from the occupied territory, the bombardment of civilian villages and areas and other practices which violated human rights. The Commission demanded that Israel put an immediate end to those practices and implement the two Security Council resolutions calling for its immediate, full and unconditional withdrawal from all Lebanese territory and respect for Lebanon's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity.

In addition, the Commission demanded also that Israel put an immediate end to the policy of forced deportation, implement Council resolution 799 (1992) and comply with the 1949 Geneva Conventions, especially the Convention on the Protection of Civilians in Times of War. It further demanded that the Israeli Government, as the occupying Power in southern Lebanon, facilitate the humanitarian task of the International Committee of

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the Red Cross (ICRC) and other humanitarian organizations, including their visit to the Khiyam and Marjayoun detention centres to examine the situation of those detained there.

The draft resolution was adopted by a show-of-hands vote of 50 in favour to none against, with no abstentions.

By a resolution on the situation of human rights in Haiti (document E/CN.4/1993/L.92), the Commission strongly condemned the overthrow of the constitutionally elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and the use of violence and military coercion in that country. Expressing deep concern over the substantial deterioration of the human rights situation in Haiti since the coup d'état of September 1991, the Commission condemned the continuing seriousness of the human rights situation in 1992, characterized, among other violations, by murders, disappearances, preventive repression, persecution, arbitrary detentions, torture, extortion of protection money by security agents, abandonment of legislative programmes and repression of all acts of protest against the de facto regime. Member States and international organizations were called upon to increase their humanitarian assistance to the Haitian people. The Commission, decided to extend for a further year the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Haiti.

Under the provisions of a resolution on the situation in Equatorial Guinea (document E/CN.4/1993/L.93), the Commission commended the excellent work done during the past 14 years by Fernando Volio Jiménez for the promotion and protection of human rights in Equatorial Guinea. Referring to revelations made in the expert's reports, the Commission expressed serious concern at the persistence of politically motivated violations of human rights, such as arbitrary arrests and the application to political prisoners of torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment, and deplored the situation of women in Equatorial Guinea.

Also by the text, the Commission called on the Government of Equatorial Guinea to put an end to the use of military courts for trying law offences and to permit the establishing of an independent judiciary. It also called upon it to take all necessary measures to promote the harmonious coexistence of the peoples forming the society of Equatorial Guinea, to free all political prisoners and to take legislative and administrative measures as provided by the human rights covenants and other relevant international instruments. The Chairman was requested to appoint a special rapporteur of the Commission to make a thorough study of the violations of human rights by the Government of Equatorial Guinea.

By a resolution on human rights and mass exoduses (document E/CN.4/1993/L.96), the Commission invited Governments and organizations to intensify their cooperation and assistance in world-wide efforts to address problems resulting from mass exoduses of refugees and displaced persons as well as the causes of such exoduses. It requested bodies and agencies of the United Nations system, including the human rights treaty bodies, as well as governmental and non-governmental organizations, to cooperate with all

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mechanisms of the Commission, particularly by providing them with information on the human rights situations creating or affecting refugees and displaced persons.

In addition, the Commission welcomed the contributions of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to the deliberations of international human rights bodies and encouraged her to seek ways to make those contributions even more effective. The Secretary-General was urged to attach a high priority and allocate the necessary resources to the consolidation and strengthening of the system for undertaking early-warning activities in the humanitarian area. The Commission welcomed the decision of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) to establish a regular United Nations inter-agency early-warning consultation related to possible flows of refugees and displaced persons.

Statement by Foreign Minister of Slovenia

LOJZE PETERLE, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Slovenia, told the Commission that his country would become a member of the Council of Europe in May. The imperative of respecting human rights in Europe had brought down totalitarian and authoritarian regimes and, as a result, new democratic states based on parliamentary democracy, political pluralism and the rule of law had risen from the ashes. Slovenia was proud to be one of them. The emergence of new states reflected the process of democratization taking place within multinational states which had been based not on the principle of national equality and common interests of their peoples, but on the basis of ideology, fear and dictatorship.

He said Slovenia was paying particular attention to the status of national minorities in the country. At the same time, it would continue to endeavour to secure respect for the human rights of its minorities in neighbouring Italy, Austria and Hungary. In the past year, the world had witnessed unimaginable atrocities taking place in the name of the rights of a certain nation and stemming from extreme nationalism. Flagrant violations of human rights on a massive scale, particularly "ethnic cleansing", attacks upon innocent civilians, abuse and torture in prison camps and mass rape, which continued to take place in Bosnia and Herzegovina, required immediate action by the international community, particularly since there was a real danger that the war and atrocities would intensify and spill over into neighbouring countries. Slovenia welcomed the decision by the Government of the United States to play a more active role in putting an end to the war. It also greatly appreciated the recent American air drops of humanitarian aid to people living in the threatened areas.

Slovenia had repeatedly proposed, within the framework of the United Nations, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and other international organizations, that safe areas be established to offer refuge to all those whose human rights were being blatantly violated, he said. Slovenia had received and would continue to support war victims from Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. There were currently over 70,000 refugees, mostly women and children, on Slovenian territory.

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He stressed the need to give priority to the prevention of violations of human rights. The international community still lacked institutional mechanisms to prevent mass violations of human rights. The period following the cold war had brought new dangers, and it had become obvious that levels already attained of respect for human rights could deteriorate. He recalled that the World Conference on Human Rights would address the possibility of "using the right to intervene" and, if required, to use force where the violation of human rights could escalate into a conflict or armed aggression.

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RESOLUTIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN MYANMAR, IRAQ, BOUGAINVILLE, ROMANIA, TOGO ADOPTED BY COMMISSION

Assistance in Field of Human Rights To Be Given to Georgia, Somalia and Guatemala

GENEVA, 10 March (UN Information Service) -- The Commission on Human Rights this afternoon adopted resolutions on the situations in Myanmar, Iraq, Bougainville, Romania and Togo and voted to take no action on a resolution on China.

Other action dealt with summary executions, the rights of the child and advisory services to Georgia, Somalia and Guatemala.

In a resolution on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, the Commission particularly deplored the fact that a number of political leaders remained deprived of their liberty. It urged the Government to take firm steps towards the establishment of a democratic State, to restore full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, to restore protection of minorities and to consider lifting emergency measures. It also urged the Government to release the Nobel Peace Prize laureate, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

A resolution on Iraq strongly condemned massive violations of human rights and called on the Government of Iraq to abide by its freely undertaken international human rights obligations. It urged the release of all persons arbitrarily detained or arrested, including Kuwaitis and nationals of other States. And it requested the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures to send human rights monitors to such locations as would facilitate improved information flows and assessment and would help in the independent verification of reports on the situation of human rights in Iraq.

In a resolution on the situation of human rights in Bougainville, the Commission urged the Government of Papau New Guinea to permit international fact-finding missions access to Papau New Guinea, including Bougainville, to assist with the resolution of the conflict and to recommence negotiations with all factions of the Bougainville people with a view to achieving peace and a mutually satisfactory solution to the armed conflict on Bougainville.

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In other resolutions on human rights situations, the Commission urged the Government and authorities of Romania to continue their efforts to ensure respect for human rights in all their aspects in the country; called upon the authorities in Togo to take all necessary measures to guarantee the security of all Togolese, including that of political opponents; and urged all Governments to undertake immediate measures aimed at eliminating the practice of forced evictions.

The Commission, by a roll-call vote of 22 in favour, to 17 against, with 12 abstentions, voted in favour of a no-action motion, proposed by the delegation of China, on a resolution on the situation of human rights in China. In that resolution, the Commission would have expressed concern over the continuing reports of violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in China, including severe restrictions on the rights of freedom of expression, religion, assembly, association and fair trial.

In other action, the Commission strongly condemned the large number of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions which continued to take place throughout the world and appealed to Governments and United Nations bodies to take effective measures to combat and eliminate those phenomena.

A series of resolutions on the rights of the child dealt with implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the exploitation of child labour, the rights of detained juveniles, the plight of street children, child prostitution and pornography and the consequences of armed conflicts on children's lives.

Regarding the role of youth in the promotion and protection of human rights, the Commission adopted a resolution on conscientious objection to military service. It drew attention to the right of everyone to have conscientious objections to military service as a legitimate exercise of the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.

In the area of advisory services in the field of human rights, the Commission adopted resolutions on assistance to Georgia and to Guatemala. In a resolution on assistance to Somalia, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to appoint for a period of one year an independent expert to assist his Special Representative for Somalia through the development of a long-term programme of advisory services for re-establishing human rights and the rule of law. It also adopted a resolution on the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights.

The Commission's other resolutions and decisions dealt with the International Covenant on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families; movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and waste; human rights and bioethics; follow-up to the guidelines for the regulation of computerized personal data files; human rights and the environment; and a draft declaration on the right and responsibility of individuals, groups and organs of society to promote and protect human rights.

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The Commission, through a statement by its Chairman, expressed deep concern about the reports of serious human rights violations associated with the armed conflict in Tajikistan. Those included the killing of non-combatants, arbitrary detentions, summary executions and hostage-taking. The Commission also expressed concern about the situation of the great number of Tajik refugees on the border of Afghanistan. It called upon all parties to respect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the Tajik people and to seek a permanent end to the hostilities.

Through a second statement of the Chairman, Mohamed Ennaceur (Tunisia) the Commission took note of the wishes of Latvia and Estonia to strengthen their political institutions and national cultures. Having in mind the interests of members of other nationalities permanently residing in those countries, the Commission appealed to all interested parties to abstain from any official declarations and actions which could adversely affect confidence-building among the people living in those countries and invited all parties to continue to search for acceptable solutions through peaceful means and in conformity with principles of justice and international law.

The Chairman announced this evening that the Commission had concluded its examination of the situation of human rights in the following seven countries under the 1503 confidential procedure: Bahrain, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan, Chad and Zaire. The situations in Sudan and Zaire would no longer remain under the confidential procedure and the situations in Bahrain and Kenya would no longer be examined, he added.

Action on Resolutions

Under a resolution on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions (document E/CN.4/1993/L.97), the Commission again strongly condemned the large number of such executions which continued to take place throughout the world and appealed urgently to Governments, United Nations bodies and organizations to take effective action to combat and eliminate that phenomenon. It urged Governments to undertake all possible measures to lower the level of violence and the needless loss of life consequent thereupon during situations of public manifestations, internal violence, disturbances, tensions and public emergency.

It further appealed to all Governments to ensure that all persons deprived of their liberty were treated with humanity and with respect for the inherent dignity of the human person and that conditions in places of detention conform to the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners and other pertinent international instruments. The Special Rapporteur was requested to continue monitoring the implementation of existing international standards on safeguards and restrictions relating to the imposition of capital punishment.

Concerning the situation of human rights in Romania (document E/CN.4/1993/L.98), the Commission welcomed steps taken in Romania to establish a democratic and pluralist system of Government based on respect for human rights and the rule of law. It also welcomed the declared ambition of that Government to fulfil the obligations undertaken under the international

Conventions and instruments to which it was a party and whose objectives were, inter alia, to prevent discrimination based on race, colour, national origin or religion. It took note of the fact that respect for human rights in general was improving in Romania, although shortcomings remained to be overcome as regards implementation of constitutional and legislative rules by local authorities; and urged the Government and authorities to continue their efforts to ensure respect for human rights in all their aspects in the country, both de jure and de facto.

On the situation of human rights in Myanmar (document E/CN.4/1993/L.101), the Commission particularly deplored the fact that a number of political leaders, including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, remained deprived of their liberty. It urged the Government, in conformity with the assurances given at various times, to take firm steps towards the establishment of a democratic State, and to adopt the measures recommended in General Assembly resolution 47/144, as well as every appropriate measure to allow all citizens to participate freely in the political process in accordance with the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and to accelerate the process of transition to democracy.

The Commission strongly urged the Government to restore full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, to restore the protection of persons belonging to minority groups, notably against discrimination concerning them; and called upon it to consider lifting emergency measures, which should cease to be the basis of law. It also urged the Government to release unconditionally and to ensure the physical integrity of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, detained without trial for the last four years, and all political prisoners.

Furthermore, the Commission requested the Government of Myanmar to ensure that all persons, without discrimination, were afforded the minimum guarantees for a fair trail in conformity with applicable international standards, that laws were given due publicity and that the principle of non-retroactivity of laws was respected. It called upon the Government to create the necessary conditions to end the flow of Myanmar refugees to neighbouring countries, to facilitate their early repatriation and full reintegration, in conditions of safety and dignity. It decided to extend for one year the mandate of the Special Rapporteur to establish or continue direct contacts with the Government and the people of Myanmar; and urged the Government to extend full and unreserved cooperation to the Commission and the Special Rapporteur.

The observer for Myanmar said the resolution left his delegation deeply troubled by its one-sided nature. It failed to meet the standards of impartiality and non-selectivity subscribed to by the Commission. Practically every paragraph was based on allegations and was politically motivated. The authors had adopted an attitude of self-righteousness in accusing the Myanmar authorities. Myanmar could not accept that intrusion in the Government's domestic affairs. The charges were false and repugnant. Myanmar would continue its cooperation with the Commission none the less, as far as its national circumstances permitted.

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Concerning the situation of human rights in Iraq (document E/CN.4/1993/L.103), the Commission expressed strong condemnation of massive violations of human rights, of the gravest nature, for which the Government of Iraq was responsible. In particular, it referred to summary and arbitrary executions, orchestrated mass executions and mass graves throughout Iraq, extrajudicial killings, including political killings, in particular in the northern region of Iraq, in southern Shiah centres and in the southern marsh area; and the widespread routine practice of systematic torture in its most cruel forms. It also referred to enforced or involuntary disappearances, routinely practised arbitrary arrests and detention, including of women, the elderly and children, and consistent and routine failure to respect due process and the rule of law; and suppression of freedom of thought, expression and association and violations of property rights.

The Commission again called upon Iraq, as a State party to the International Covenants on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and on Civil and Political Rights, to abide by its freely undertaken obligations under the Covenants and other international instruments; called upon the Government to release immediately all persons arbitrarily arrested and detained, including Kuwaitis and nationals of other States; urged it to set up an independent commission of inquiry and to take all necessary steps to cooperate closely with the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances to look into the fate of tens of thousands of disappeared persons, as well as to take immediate steps to bring the action of its security apparatus into line with the standards of international law.

The Commission expressed special alarm at a continued policy of discriminatory and repressive acts against the Shiah communities and the civilian population in southern Iraq, which was the result of a preconceived policy against the marsh Arabs; as well as special alarm at all internal embargoes which permitted essentially no exceptions for humanitarian needs and which prevented the equitable enjoyment of basic foodstuffs and medical supplies. It called upon Iraq, which had sole responsibility in that regard, to remove those obstructions and to cooperate with international humanitarian agencies in the provision of relief to those in need throughout Iraq.

It regretted the failure of the Government to provide satisfactory replies concerning the violations of human rights brought to the attention of the Special Rapporteur; and requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Special Rapporteur, to take measures to send human rights monitors to such locations as would facilitate improved information flows and assessment and would help in the independent verification of reports on the situation of human rights in Iraq. It extended the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for a further year.

The observer for Iraq, speaking before the vote, said the resolution was a political document aimed at dividing Iraq into small provinces based on religion, and its basic character was one of colonialism. The resolution contained erroneous information, much of it quite old. It gave the impression that the Iraqi people were divided among those who had been executed, those who had disappeared, and those who had been detained. The real crime was the

blockade imposed on all Iraqis by the West, a blockade which was denying Iraqis the very right to life. Teams of human rights inspectors coming to the country would be a serious interference in Iraq's internal affairs and would set a grave precedent for all third world countries. Iraq would reject such interference, although it was in favour of close cooperation with the Commission. It called on countries to reject the resolution.

The resolution on Iraq was adopted by a roll-call vote of 36 in favour to 1 against, with 15 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Barbados, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Iran, Japan, Kenya, Mauritius, Mexico, Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Syria, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela and Zambia.

Against: Sudan.

Abstentions: Bangladesh, Burundi, China, Cuba, Guinea Bissau, India, Indonesia, Lesotho, Libya, Malaysia, Mauritania, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Tunisia.

Prior to the vote on the resolution as a whole, the Commission voted in favour of retaining operative paragraph 11 of the resolution which called for sending human rights monitors. The roll-call vote on that provision was 32 in favour to 3 against, with 16 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Barbados, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Japan, Mauritius, Mexico, Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela and Zambia.

Against: Libya, Mauritania and Sudan.

Abstentions: Bangladesh, Burundi, China, Cuba, Guinea-Bissau, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Lesotho, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Syria and Tunisia.

Under a resolution on the situation of human rights in China (document E/CN.4/1993/L.104), the Commission would have expressed concern over continuing reports of violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including severe restrictions on the rights of freedom of expression, religion, assembly, association and fair trial. It would have called upon the Government of China to take measures to ensure the observance of human rights and to improve the administration of justice in China; and would have invited the Government to continue to cooperate with the Special Rapporteurs and Working Groups.

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The representative of China requested formally that the Commission take no action on the resolution, saying that it was a typical attempt to interfere in China's internal affairs. There was no excuse whatsoever for the Western countries to accuse China on human rights, he said. The better the situation in China was, the more the United States and its allies insisted on putting political pressure on the country to change the path chosen by the Chinese people. The proposal had nothing to do with human rights. The list of cosponsors was a very good textbook -- it was composed almost exclusively of Western countries. Those countries did not like the way China constantly defended the legitimate rights of developing countries. To safeguard the Charter and safeguard sovereignty, China resolutely rejected the resolution.

The delegations of Pakistan, Mauritania, Cuba, Nigeria, Bangladesh, Syria, Iran, Malaysia and Sudan supported the motion to take no action on the resolution in question.

The Commission, by a roll-call vote of 22 in favour to 17 against with 12 abstentions, decided to take no action on the resolution. The vote was as follows:

In favour: Angola, Bangladesh, Burundi, China, Cuba, Cyprus, Gabon, Guinea-Bissau, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Libya, Malaysia, Mauritania, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia and Zambia.

Against: Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, United Kingdom and United States.

Abstentions: Argentina, Barbados, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Gambia, Lesotho, Mexico, Peru, Republic of Korea, Uruguay and Venezuela.

The representative of China said the vote to take no action once again showed that the vast majority of the Commission's members upheld justice. They had rejected the attempt to politicize human rights, and the efforts of a few countries to manipulate the Commission had once again been futile. China was willing to cooperate with the vast majority of members of the international community in promoting human rights on the basis of impartiality. It would continue to oppose power politics in human rights.

In a resolution on the situation of human rights in Togo (document E/CN.4/1993/L.108), the Commission deplored the serious obstacles standing in the way of the process of democratic transition and encouraged additional efforts to ensure the continuation of that process, in full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It deplored the use of violence by the armed forces against peaceful demonstrators, which had claimed many victims, and it called upon the authorities in Togo to take all necessary measures to create favourable situations for all Togolese, including that of political opponents.

In a resolution on human rights violations on Bougainville (document E/CN.4/1993/L.51/Rev.1), the Commission urged the Government of Papua New Guinea to permit international fact-finding missions access to Papua

New Guinea, including Bougainville, to assist in the resolution of the conflict with due consideration for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Charter and other relevant international treaties to which the Government of Papua New Guinea was a party. It also urged the Government to recommence negotiations with all factions of the Bougainville people with a view to achieving peace and a mutually satisfactory solution to the armed conflict on Bougainville.

Concerning detention on Bougainville, the Commission endorsed the request of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to the Special Rapporteur on the study of treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements between States and indigenous populations to include the case of the agreements entered into between the indigenous people of Bougainville and the Government of Papua New Guinea in his report.

Under a resolution on forced evictions, proposed by the Subcommission, the Commission urged Governments to undertake immediate measures, at all levels, aimed at eliminating that practice. It urged them to confer legal security of tenure to all persons currently threatened with forced eviction and to adopt necessary measures giving full protection against forced eviction, based upon effective participation, consultation and negotiation with affected persons or groups. It recommended that all Governments provide immediate restitution, compensation and/or appropriate and sufficient alternative accommodation or land, consistent with their wishes and needs, to persons and communities which had been forcibly evicted, following mutually satisfactory negotiations with the affected persons or groups. It also requested the Secretary-General to compile an analytical report on the practice of forced evictions, for submission to the Commission at its fiftieth session.

In a resolution on implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (document E/CN.4/1993/L.88), the Commission expressed satisfaction at the number of States that had signed, ratified or acceded to the Convention since it was opened for signature, on 26 January 1990, and called upon others to do so as a matter of priority. Alarmed by persistent reports that massive violations of the rights of the child continued world-wide, it urged States parties to take immediate steps to ensure strict compliance with their obligations under the Convention and appealed again to those that had made reservations to review the compatibility of their reservations with the Convention and other rules of international law. It welcomed the decision of the Committee on the Rights of the Child at its second session to consider the reservations and declarations entered by States parties, with a view to encouraging the withdrawal of those reservations and declarations no longer considered necessary.

A resolution on a programme of action for the elimination of the exploitation of child labour (document E/CN.4/1993/L.95) was based on a submission by the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. It recommended that all States adopt the necessary legislative and administrative measures to implement the programme at the national and international levels, and invited the Committee on the Rights of the Child to

consider bearing it in mind in connection with its activities. The Commission also invited the Special Rapporteur on the sale of the children to bear the programme of action in mind. And it requested all States periodically to report to the Subcommission on measures adopted to implement the programme of action and on the effectiveness of such measures. The Subcommission was requested to submit a progress report every two years on implementation of the programme.

On the application of international standards concerning the human rights of detained juveniles (document E/CN.4/1993/L.96), the Commission expressed the wish that the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Subcommission's Working Groups on Contemporary Forms of Slavery and on Detention, should be represented at the meeting of experts to be organized on that question in 1994, together with the specialized non-governmental organizations, in particular those of juvenile court judges. It requested the Secretary-General to report on the result of the meeting to the Commission and to the Subcommission.

In a resolution on the plight of street children (document E/CN.4/1993/L.102), the Commission expressed grave concern at the growing number of incidents world-wide and reports of street children being involved in and affected by serious crime, drug abuse, violence and prostitution. It urged Governments actively to seek comprehensive ways to prevent the marginalization of children in society and the emergence of the phenomenon of street children; and to take measures to restore street children's full participation in society, to involve them in the development of such programmes and to provide adequate nutrition, shelter, health care and education. Calling for universal adherence to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Commission invited Governments, United Nations bodies and organizations as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to cooperate with each other and to ensure greater awareness and more effective action to solve the problem of street children. The Committee on the Rights of the Child was invited to consider the possibility of a general comment on street children and the Commission called upon special rapporteurs, special representatives and working groups to pay particular attention to the plight of street children.

In a resolution endorsing the conclusions and recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (document E/CN.4/1993/L.109) the Commission stressed the need for an effective multidisciplinary approach; recognized the important role the media could play in collecting and disseminating information on children's rights, in particular in the areas covered by the mandate of the Special Rapporteur; and emphasized the importance of ensuring training for those involved in actions concerning children. It recognized the importance of promoting the adoption, by the business sector, of a code of conduct for child protection with a view to preventing the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography; encouraged Governments, national police and other law enforcement authorities to work closely with the International Criminal Police

Organization (INTERPOL) to identify cases of concern to the Special Rapporteur; and encouraged States to consider raising the age of military recruitment to 18 and to prohibit the use of child soldiers.

On the consequences of armed conflicts on children's lives (document E/CN.4/1993/L.110), the Commission deplored the continued practice of enlisting children in the armed forces; expressed deep concern and indignation at the serious consequences of armed conflicts on children, directly or indirectly involved, who were among the main victims of the indiscriminate use of anti-personnel mines; encouraged efforts to promote international cooperation to assist in the detention and clearance of unremoved mines; and requested all States to render full support to prevention of the indiscriminate use of anti-personnel mines and to protection and assistance for the victims. It invited the relevant organizations in the United Nations system as well as other intergovernmental organizations to intensify their efforts to ensure that all possible assistance was given to child victims of anti-personnel mines, who were often disabled for life.

In a decision on the report on the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, the Commission endorsed the request of the Subcommission that the Subcommission consider the possibility of appointing a special rapporteur to update Abdelwahab Bouhdiba's report on the exploitation of child labour (E/CN.4/Sub.2/479), submitted to the Subcommission in 1981, and to extend that study to the problem of debt bondage. It further endorsed the request that the Secretary-General annually invite States which had not acceded to or ratified the International Conventions on slavery to explain why they had not done so and report on their replies to the Subcommission and to the Commission. The Secretary-General, when preparing his next report on the status and implementation of the international conventions on slavery, would include a list of States which had not yet signed, ratified or acceded to those instruments.

In a decision on the application of international standards concerning the human rights of detained juveniles, the Commission noted resolution 1992/25 of the Subcommission welcoming the proposal of the Secretary-General to organize, in March, a meeting of experts under the auspices of the Centre for Human Rights, the United Nations Children's Fund and the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the Centre for Social and Development and Humanitarian Affairs on the application of the international standards concerning the human rights of detained juveniles. It endorsed the request of the Subcommission to the Secretary-General to provide all necessary assistance for the organization and success of the meeting of experts.

Concerning conscientious objection to military service (document E/CN.4/1993/L.107), the Commission drew attention to the right of everyone to have conscientious objections to military service as a legitimate exercise of the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; appealed to States to enact legislation and to take measures aimed at exemption from military service on the basis of a genuinely held conscientious objection to armed service; emphasized that forms of alternative service should be of a non-combatant or civilian character, in the public interest and not of a

punitive nature; and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Commission at its fifty-first session on the question of conscientious objection to military service, taking into account the comments provided by Governments.

Under a resolution on assistance to Georgia in the field of human rights (document E/CN.4/1993/L.84), the Commission recognized the efforts made by the Government of Georgia to secure full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all its inhabitants, and urged the Government and the authorities in Abkhazia to intensify efforts to ensure that the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all inhabitants of Georgia were fully respected. It welcomed the progressive trend of democratization set by the Government of Georgia and encouraged it to continue the process of democratization, including elections, and to guarantee and ensure the full enjoyment of human rights of all of Georgia's inhabitants. The Commission appealed to the Government to develop further legal and institutional measures to put an end to violence, including measures to terminate the existence of illegal paramilitary groups.

By a resolution on assistance to Somalia in the field of human rights (document E/CN.4/1993/L.86), the Commission requested the Secretary-General to appoint, for a period of one year, a person having wide experience in human rights as an independent expert. That person, in his or her individual capacity, would assist his Special Representative for Somalia through development of a long-term programme of advisory services for re-establishing human rights and the rule of law, including a democratic Constitution, as well as the eventual holding of periodic and genuine elections by universal suffrage and secret ballot.

It requested the Secretary-General to give priority to implementing the programme recommended by the independent expert, as conditions in Somalia permitted, including through the programme of advisory services of the Centre for Human Rights, in close cooperation with the Special Representative for Somalia, the United Nations peace-keeping operation in Somalia, other United Nations entities, and humanitarian and non-governmental organizations. The Secretary-General was urged to consider the establishment of a unit within the United Nations peace-keeping operation in Somalia to assist in the promotion and protection of human rights and in encouraging respect for humanitarian law, as well as in the implementation of the recommendations of the independent expert.

With respect to advisory services and the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights (document E/CN.4/1993/L.99), the Commission reaffirmed that the programme of advisory services should continue to provide practical assistance in the implementation of international conventions on human rights to those States which indicated a need for such assistance. It requested the Secretary-General to give special attention to proposals made by United Nations human rights treaty bodies, special representatives and special rapporteurs, as well working groups, and to report

on follow-up activities undertaken as a result of such proposals. It encouraged Governments in need of advisory services in the field of human rights to avail themselves of them.

Concerning activities under the Voluntary Fund, the Commission welcomed the new global approach and policy developed by the Centre for Human Rights to address specific demands by carrying out a comprehensive needs assessment and developing an overall programme containing specific projects aimed at strengthening the human rights infrastructure of a country. It encouraged the Secretary-General and the Centre for Human Rights to participate actively in the formulation of projects regarding technical cooperation in human rights, in close consultation with the Government concerned. It further requested the Secretary-General to appoint a Board of Trustees for the Fund, composed of five persons, to advise him on its administration and operation.

The Commission requested the Secretary-General further to explore the possibilities offered by cooperation between the Centre for Human Rights and specialized bodies and other organizations of the United Nations system. It also requested him to bring the need for technical cooperation in the legal field that a number of States had brought to the attention of the United Nations bodies and the specialized agencies that were active in providing assistance in the field of development with a view to promoting human rights in the development strategies and policies of the United Nations system.

On assistance to Guatemala in the field of human rights (document E/CN.4/1993/L.119), the Commission recognized the efforts made by President Jorge Serrano Elías to improve the human rights situation; regretted the fact that, despite the undertaking given by the Government to guarantee full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, serious violations continued to occur; urged both parties to respect the rules of international humanitarian law in the internal armed conflicts; and urged the Government to intensify investigations aimed at identifying and bringing to justice all those responsible for violations of human rights.

The Commission recognized the positive work done in defence of human rights by the Human Rights Procurator and encouraged the Government to give him support and guarantee conditions for the intensification of his activities; expressed satisfaction at the initiation of the process of repatriation of refugees and appealed to the competent authorities to guarantee continuation of the process. It requested the Secretary-General to continue to provide the Government and non-governmental organizations with advisory services in the field of human rights; and to extend the mandate of the Independent Expert so that he might continue to examine the human rights situation in Guatemala.

By a resolution on the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (document E/CN.4/1993/L.100), the Commission, taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the International Convention (E/CN.4/1993/51), expressed hope that it would enter into force at an early date. It requested the Secretary-General to provide all facilities and

assistance necessary for the promotion of the Convention, through the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights and the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights.

A resolution on the movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes (document E/CN.4/1993/L.47/Rev.1) welcomed the Tunis Declaration adopted by the Ministers and representatives of the African States last November in the context of preparations for the World Conference on Human Rights, especially where it related to the environmental consequences of dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes, and its effects on human life. The resolution reaffirmed the request made by the First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention to the industrialized countries to prohibit the export of hazardous and other wastes to parties which had prohibited their import and to non-parties. It invited all Governments to take legislative and other appropriate measures with a view to preventing illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products. It further urged the international community to give the necessary support to African and other developing countries in their efforts to implement the provisions of the existing international and regional instruments governing the transboundary movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes.

The resolution was adopted by a roll-call vote of 34 in favour to 1 against, with 17 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Angola, Argentina, Bangladesh, Barbados, Brazil, Burundi, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Lesotho, Libya, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Uruguay, Venezuela and Zambia.

Against: United States.

Abstentions: Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Malaysia, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation and United Kingdom.

The representative of the United States, explaining his vote, said that freedom from the dumping was not a collective right. It was not appropriate to discuss that topic in a human rights forum. It would be appropriate to discuss it in an environmental forum with a legal text, such as the Basel Convention.

Under a resolution on human rights and bioethics (document E/CN.4/1993/L.82), the Commission invited Governments, organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, in particular, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Health Organization, and other intergovernmental organizations, particularly regional, and non-governmental organizations to inform the Secretary-General of activities being conducted to ensure that the life sciences develop in a manner respectful of human rights. It invited States to advise the

Secretary-General of legislative or other measures taken to that effect, including the possible establishment of national consultative bodies, with a view to promoting exchanges of experience.

By a decision on the question of the follow-up to the guidelines for the regulation of computerized personal data files (document E/CN.4/1993/L.106), the Commission, referring to the "Guidelines for the regulation of computerized personal data", adopted by the General Assembly in 1990 under resolution 45/95, requested the Secretary-General to report on the application of the guidelines within the United Nations system; and on information collected from intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, regional organizations and States that wished to transmit particulars concerning the follow-up to the guidelines at the regional and national levels.

On human rights and the environment, the Commission endorsed the request of the Subcommission to Fatma Zohra Ksentini, Special Rapporteur on the question, to prepare a second progress report.

Under a resolution on a draft declaration on the right and responsibility of individuals, groups and organs of society to promote and protect universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms (document E/CN.4/1993/L.91), the Commission urged the working group on the draft to make every effort to complete its task and submit the draft declaration to the Commission at its fiftieth session. It decided to continue at that session its work on the elaboration of the draft declaration. It also decided to make available appropriate meeting time for the working group prior to and during its fiftieth session.

With regard to human rights in El Salvador (document E/CN.4/1993/L.89), the Commission expressed profound satisfaction and gratitude to El Salvador for the signal importance of the ending of the armed conflict and its positive impact on the observance of human rights. It welcomed the integration of the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional (FMLN) into the civil life of the country, and urged the Government and the FMLN to carry out fully the remaining agreements. The Commission reiterated its appeal to all States to contribute to the consolidation of peace in El Salvador by supporting full compliance with the Peace Agreements and generously financing their implementation and the implementation of the National Reconstruction Plan. The Secretary-General was requested to extend by one year the appointment of the Independent Expert to report on human rights developments in El Salvador.

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United Nations

Press Release

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HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION CALLS FOR FURTHER PROGRESS IN EAST TIMOR, COMPLETES ACTION ON RESOLUTIONS

Sri Lanka Outlines Its Programme for Human Rights Improvements

GENEVA, 11 March (UN Information Service) -- The Commission on Human Rights this morning expressed deep concern over the situation in East Timor, calling on Indonesia to step up efforts to identify those killed and unaccounted for in the island, to find and punish those responsible, and to solicit visits to East Timor by the Commission's Special Rapporteurs on torture and on extrajudicial, summary, or arbitrary executions. It also asked that the Working Groups on arbitrary detentions and on enforced or involuntary disappearances be welcomed there.

A resolution to that effect was adopted by a roll-call vote of 22 in favour to 12 against, with 15 abstentions. An earlier motion to take no action on the resolution was rejected by a roll-call vote of 15 in favour to 22 against, with 12 abstentions. The representative of Indonesia expressed opposition to the resolution, claiming it was too harsh and did not give the country credit for progress it had recently made in human rights.

Also adopted by the Commission were resolutions on procedures for special sessions, study of the problems of internally displaced persons, the length of reports and studies, and the widening of geographical representation among Commission experts and special rapporteurs.

The procedure for convening special sessions of the Commission was adopted after speakers commented that several emergency meetings last year had indicated the need for a clear process and time-frame. The guidelines call for special sessions to be convened four to six days after the decision to hold them and recommends that they last no longer than three days. After lengthy debate, discussion of the proposed establishment of an emergency human rights mechanism was put off until next year's session.

In a statement made at the outset of this morning's meeting, the representative of Sri Lanka said his country shared the Commission's concerns about human rights problems, that continuing violence in the north and east of

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For information media—not an official record

Sri Lanka was a particular concern and, as long as terrorism continued there, it would have a negative effect on human rights. Meanwhile, the Government was undertaking a programme to account for missing persons, to prosecute those responsible for disappearances, to review and revise rules for arrest and detention, and to take into account other recommendations by human rights groups.

Following that statement, the Chairman, Mohamed Ennaceur (Tunisia), said Sri Lanka's efforts had the support and encouragement of the Commission.

With the completion of action on the resolutions before it, the Commission was scheduled to meet again at 3.00 p.m. on Friday, 12 March, to adopt its report and end the work of its forty-ninth session.

Statement by Sri Lanka

In his statement, TILAK MARAPANA (Sri Lanka) told the Commission that the measures taken by his Government had led to considerable improvements in the human rights situation in Sri Lanka. In particular, the number of reported cases of disappearances had been greatly reduced. The Government was seeking to restore normality in the face of extraordinary security problems generated by terrorist violence. Of particular concern was the continuing violence in the north and the east. As long as that conflict continued, it would create conditions in which the risk of human rights abuses could increase. He then outlined the main elements of the programme of work the Government had undertaken to carry out this year in accordance with the recommendations of the Working Group on Disappearances.

Statement by Chairman

The CHAIRMAN, MOHAMED ENNACEUR (Tunisia), said the Commission acknowledged the statement of the representative of Sri Lanka. The intention of the Government of Sri Lanka to share with the Commission, its mechanisms and other interested parties, information on the progress made had been noted. The efforts of the Government to arrive at a negotiated political settlement to the problems in the north and the east of the country should be encouraged.

Statement by Zaire

J. J. MUKENDI WA MULUMBA, observer for Zaire, said his transitional Government congratulated the Commission for its resolution on Zaire, which took off the cloak of secrecy and would advance the cause of human rights. Citizens were living under a dictatorial Government and the situation had been made much worse by pillaging and looting and economic collapse. A country once rich had been reduced to being an international beggar. There were political assassinations, rocket attacks and rape by men in uniform. There were threats and intimidation, and the taking of the entire elected Parliament as hostages. Democratization must be allowed to take place; pressure must be

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applied until a favourable solution was found. The Commission should make public all documents submitted under the confidential procedure. The authorities had not been discreet, after all, in violating human rights.

Action on Resolutions

Under a resolution on documentation and appointments (document E/CN.4/1993/L.76/Rev.1), the Commission decided that all the reports submitted to it had to conform to the norms and principles established by the General Assembly and that, to the greatest extent possible, they should not surpass the limit of 32 pages. It asked the Secretariat to do its utmost so that the basic documents could be distributed in all the official languages at least six weeks before the relevant agenda item was taken up. The Commission also authorized all the special representatives, special rapporteurs, independent experts and thematic working groups to begin their work as soon as they received their mandate, taking into account that, should the Economic and Social Council not approve the Commission's decision in that regard, the work concerned would be terminated.

With regard to the appointment of special representatives, special rapporteurs and independent experts, the Commission requested the Chairman, in consultation with the Bureau, to do his utmost to take due account of the need to carry out the appointments on as broad a geographic basis as possible, so as to correct the present disequilibrium.

The Commission decided to postpone consideration of a proposal on the establishment of an emergency mechanism of the Commission on Human Rights (document E/CN.4/1993/L.83) to its fiftieth and subsequent sessions.

Under a resolution on internally displaced persons (document E/CN.4/1993/L.105/Rev.1), the Commission took note with appreciation of the comprehensive study contained in the annex to the note by the Secretary-General (document E/CN.4/1993/35) and of the suggestions and recommendations contained therein. It commended the Representative of the Secretary-General for his study and for the way in which he had started to discharge his mandate. It requested the Secretary-General to mandate his Representative for a period of two years to continue his work aimed at a better understanding of the general problems faced by internally displaced persons and their possible long-term solutions, with a view to identify, where required, means for improved protection for and assistance to such persons. It further called upon all Governments, regional intergovernmental organizations, the Department for Humanitarian Affairs, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and non-governmental organizations to continue to cooperate with the Representative.

Concerning the procedure for special sessions of the Commission on Human Rights (document E/CN.4/1993/L.120), the Commission recommended that the Economic and Social Council decide that the procedure shall be that contained in the annex to the present decision.

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In particular, any member of the United Nations might request the Secretary-General to convene a special session; the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights should immediately canvass the views of the members of the Commission by the most expeditious means of communication available, and those States should, within four working days from the date of the communication, transmit their views in writing. If the majority expressed support for a special session, the Assistant Secretary-General should communicate the opening date of the session, which should be between the fourth and sixth United Nations working day after the deadline referred to. The duration of the special session shall, in principle, not exceed three days.

With regard to the situation in East Timor (document E/CN.4/1993/L.81/Rev.1), the Commission expressed its deep concern at the reports of continuing human rights violations; regretted that the Indonesian investigation into the actions of the members of its security personnel on 12 November 1991, which resulted in the loss of life, injuries and disappearances, had failed to clearly identify all those responsible for those actions; and expressed concern at the lack of information about the number of people killed and of the persons still unaccounted for.

The Commission regretted the disparity in the severity of sentences imposed on those civilians not indicted for violent activities -- who should have been released without delay -- on the one hand, and to the military involved in the violent incident, on the other. It called upon the Government of Indonesia fully to honour the commitments undertaken in the statement on the situation of human rights in East Timor; and to ensure that all the East Timorese in custody be treated humanely and with full respect for their rights, that all trials be fair, just and public, with the right to proper legal representation, in accordance with international humanitarian law, and that those not involved in violent activities be released without delay.

The Commission welcomed the greater access recently granted by the Indonesian authorities to human rights and humanitarian organizations, and called upon the Indonesian authorities to expand that access; and it urged the Government to invite the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture, the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, the Working Group on arbitrary detention and the Working Group on enforced or involuntary disappearances to visit East Timor and to facilitate the discharge of their mandates. The Commission welcomed the agreement given by the Government to the proposal of the Secretary-General for a new visit to Indonesia and East Timor by his Personal Envoy in the coming months.

The representatives of Malaysia, Syria, Bangladesh, India, Iran, Japan and the Sudan supported a motion to take no action on the resolution.

S. WIRYONO (Indonesia) said the resolution did not give his country credit for the progress it had made in human rights since the Chairman's statement last year. Indonesia had agreed to a process of consultation this year in the hope of achieving another Chairman's statement. He had thought the statement would be less condemnatory and give his country credit. In spite of Indonesia's serious efforts, consensus had not been reached.

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Indonesia was being targeted with a resolution that was harsh in its language and unfair in its content. The resolution was unacceptable. It contained unsubstantiated allegations and failed to recognize concrete steps taken by the Government. Indonesia would vote against it.

The proposal to take no action on the resolution was rejected by a roll-call vote of 15 in favour to 22 against, with 12 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Bangladesh, China, Cuba, Gambia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Kenya, Malaysia, Nigeria, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Sudan and Syria.

Against: Angola, Australia, Austria, Barbados, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritius, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States and Zambia.

Abstentions: Argentina, Burundi, Colombia, Cyprus, Gabon, Lesotho, Mauritania, Mexico, Pakistan, Peru, Tunisia and Venezuela.

The resolution was then adopted by a roll-call vote of 22 in favour to 12 against, with 15 abstentions, as follows:

In favour: Angola, Australia, Austria, Barbados, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritius, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States and Zambia.

Against: Bangladesh, China, Cuba, Gambia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, Sudan and Syria.

Abstentions: Argentina, Burundi, Colombia, Cyprus, Gabon, Japan, Kenya, Lesotho, Mauritania, Mexico, Pakistan, Peru, Republic of Korea, Tunisia and Venezuela.

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United Nations

Press Release

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Round-up of Session

HR/CN/453
17 March 1993

FORTY-NINTH SESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

GENEVA, 1 FEBRUARY-12 MARCH

Appoints Special Rapporteurs on Occupied Territories, Sudan, Equatorial Guinea, Racism and Freedom of Opinion; Expert on Somalia

GENEVA, 12 March (UN Information Service) -- Following six weeks of intensive debate on the situation of human rights in the world, and the adoption of 98 resolutions and 16 decisions on a wide spectrum of human rights issues, the Commission on Human Rights concluded its forty-ninth session at Geneva this afternoon.

During the session, which began on 1 February, the Commission appointed three new Special Rapporteurs on human rights situations. The first will investigate Israel's violation of human rights in the occupied Arab territories, with a mandate to receive communications and hear witnesses, and will report his conclusions and recommendations to the Commission at its future sessions, until the end of the Israeli occupation. The other two Special Rapporteurs will be charged with investigating the situation of human rights in the Sudan and in Equatorial Guinea, respectively.

The Commission also decided to appoint a Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, a Special Rapporteur on the freedom of opinion and expression, and a 15-member working group to study the problems of economic development and human rights. In addition, the Commission requested that an Independent Expert be appointed to assist the Secretary-General's Special Representative in Somalia in re-establishing respect for human rights and the rule of law.

On International Women's Day -- 8 March -- the Commission condemned all violations of human rights directed specifically against women, including those occurring in situations of armed conflict. It decided to consider the appointment of a special rapporteur on violence against women at its next session.

In other action, the Commission condemned all violations of human rights in the former Yugoslavia by all sides to the conflict and recognized those who

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For information media--not an official record

bore the primary responsibility for such violations. It extended the mandate of Tadeusz Masowiecki, the Special Rapporteur for that region, for one year and requested the Secretary-General to provide him with additional resources. It also condemned the systematic rape of women in the former Yugoslavia and expressed outrage at the practice of rape being used as a weapon of war. It requested the Special Rapporteur to pursue an investigation into the phenomenon of rape in the former Yugoslavia and to present a report to the Commission no later than 30 June.

By the terms of another resolution, the Commission deplored the continued seriousness of the situation of human rights in Myanmar and, in particular, the fact that a number of political leaders remained deprived of their liberty. By a resolution on Iraq, it strongly condemned the massive violations of human rights, of the gravest nature, in Iraq and requested the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures to send human rights monitors to such locations as would help in the independent verification of reports of violations in that country.

The Commission also expressed deep concern over the situation in East Timor and called on Indonesia to step up efforts to identify those killed and unaccounted for in East Timor, to find and punish those responsible, and to solicit visits to the island by the Commission's Special Rapporteurs. Further, the Commission expressed its deep concern at the serious human rights violations in the Sudan, including summary executions, detention without due process, forced displacement of persons and torture. It also expressed its deep concern at continuing reports of violations of human rights in Iran, including the high number of executions, torture, the lack of guarantees of due process of law, and discriminatory treatment of certain groups of citizens for their religious beliefs, notably the Baha'ís.

In other action taken during the session, the Commission again condemned the continuing seriousness of the human rights situation in Haiti; expressed its serious concern at the persistence of politically-motivated violations of human rights in Equatorial Guinea; called upon the Government of Cuba to permit the Special Rapporteur to carry out his mandate in that country by allowing him to visit Cuba; and urged the Government of Papau New Guinea to permit international fact-finding missions access to Bougainville to assist with the resolution of the conflict there.

The Commission also adopted resolutions on the human rights situations in Afghanistan, Zaire, southern Lebanon, Romania, El Salvador, Togo and Albania. It adopted resolutions on assistance in the field of human rights to Georgia and to Guatemala.

On extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, the Commission strongly condemned such practices, which it said continued to take place throughout the world and appealed to Governments and United Nations bodies to take effective action to combat and eliminate such phenomena.

A majority of the Commission's 53 members voted to take no action on a draft resolution on the situation of human rights in China. By that text, the

Commission would have expressed concern over the continuing reports of violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in China, including severe restrictions on the rights of freedom of expression, religion, assembly, association and fair trial.

Regarding Cambodia, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to ensure a continued United Nations human rights presence in Cambodia after the expiry of the mandate of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) in order to manage the implementation of educational, advisory services and technical assistance programmes. The Secretary-General was also asked to assist the Government of Cambodia established after the elections to meet its obligations under human rights instruments.

Concerning the situation in South Africa, the Commission called upon the South African authorities to exercise effectively their responsibility to maintain law and order, to stop the violence, to prosecute the perpetrators and to protect all citizens, irrespective of their political affiliation.

In a series of resolutions on the world's indigenous people, the Commission called upon the United Nations system and all Governments to develop policies in support of the objectives of the International Year of the World's Indigenous People and to strengthen the institutional framework for their implementation. It requested the Working Group on Indigenous Populations to complete as soon as possible the elaboration of international standards for the promotion and protection of the human rights of the world's indigenous peoples.

Acting through statements by its Chairman, the Commission expressed deep concern about the reports of serious human rights violations associated with the armed conflict in Tajikistan; appealed to all interested parties to abstain from any official declarations and actions which could adversely affect confidence-building among the people living in Latvia and Estonia; and acknowledged the intention of the Government of Sri Lanka to address the human rights situation in that country through a programme of work to be implemented in the course of the year and which included taking appropriate measures to ascertain the whereabouts of alleged missing persons.

The Commission also adopted resolutions on the rights of the child; the right of conscientious objection to military service; the rights of all migrant workers; the movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and waste; human rights and bioethics; guidelines for the regulation of computerized personal data files; human rights and the environment; and the draft Declaration on the right and responsibility of individuals, groups and organs of society to promote and protect human rights.

During its discussion of human rights violations, in addition to reviewing the situation in various countries, the Commission took up the issue of summary or arbitrary executions, mass exoduses, and cooperation with United Nations human rights representatives. It devoted several meetings to discussions on the rights of detainees, including the question of human rights and states of emergency, the detention of staff members of the United Nations

and its specialized agencies, independence of the judiciary, right to a fair trial, hostage-taking, torture and involuntary disappearances.

The Commission also debated the right to self-determination, the programme of action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination; the realization of economic, social and cultural rights; and the right to development. In addition, it considered methods for further promoting human rights, public information activities and advisory services in the field of human rights, and the World Conference on Human Rights.

The Commission commemorated the International Year for the World's Indigenous People on 17 February. Addressing the Commission on that day, Rigoberta Menchu, winner of the 1992 Nobel Peace Prize, said that "to reduce this Year to commemorations, however fine or symbolic they may be, would be to waste a historic opportunity to make a real change in relations between different cultures".

During the course of the session, the Commission concluded the confidential examination of the situation of human rights in the following seven countries: Bahrain, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan, Chad and Zaire. The Commission decided that the situations in the Sudan and Zaire would no longer remain under the confidential procedure and the situations in Bahrain and Kenya would no longer be examined.

In a closing statement, Vladimir Petrovsky, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, said that no longer could the ideological differences of the past be used as a pretext to stop or delay the efforts of the international community aimed at the largest possible realization of human rights standards. Lack of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms resulted in the demise of those Governments which consistently denied the inherent rights of individuals. At the World Conference on Human Rights, the international community should seize the opportunity to make human rights a reality for people everywhere. The Conference would truly succeed if it resulted in concrete action.

Mohamed Ennaceur (Tunisia), Chairman of the Commission, in his closing address said important qualitative changes had been initiated during the session. The Commission had expressed its will to act and to be more active in the field, for example, in the matter of women's rights. There were also areas of concern, of shadow, he said. Instead of a dialogue that should have been frank, effective and fair, the Commission had frequently heard monologues about limited subjects. The important thing was to establish constructive dialogues with Governments and to persuade them to cooperate in the fight for human rights. It was important to try harder to establish a rapport and goodwill. He also suggested that a further rationalization of the work of the Commission was necessary to have adequate time to discuss thematic and practical mechanisms, and have an opportunity to take up new subjects.

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Resolutions Adopted

With regard to the situation in East Timor, the Commission expressed its deep concern at the reports of continuing human rights violations, regretted that the Indonesian investigation into the actions of the members of its security personnel on 12 November 1991 had failed to clearly identify all those responsible for those actions, and expressed its concern at the lack of information about the number of people killed on that day and those still unaccounted for.

It called upon the Government of Indonesia to honour fully its human rights commitments, and called upon it to ensure that all the East Timorese in custody be treated humanely and with their rights fully respected. It urged the Government to invite the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture, the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention and the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances to visit East Timor and to facilitate the discharge of their mandates; and welcomed the agreement given by the Government to the proposal of the Secretary-General for a new visit to Indonesia and East Timor by his Personal Envoy in the coming months.

On the situation of human rights in Myanmar, the Commission deplored the continued seriousness of the situation of human rights in Myanmar and, in particular, the fact that a number of political leaders, including Aung San Suu Kyi, remained deprived of their liberty. It urged the Government to take firm steps towards the establishment of a democratic State, and to allow all citizens to participate freely in the political process. It strongly urged the Government to restore full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, to restore the protection of persons belonging to minority groups, and called upon it to consider lifting emergency measures. It also urged the Government to release unconditionally and to ensure the physical integrity of Aung San Suu Kyi and other political prisoners.

It decided to extend for one year the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for Myanmar and urged the Government to extend its full and unreserved cooperation to the Commission and the Special Rapporteur.

Concerning the situation of human rights in Iraq, the Commission expressed its strong condemnation of the massive violations of human rights, of the gravest nature, for which the Government of Iraq was responsible Those included: summary and arbitrary executions, orchestrated mass executions and mass graves throughout Iraq, extrajudicial killings, the widespread routine practice of systematic torture, enforced or involuntary disappearances, and routine arbitrary arrests and detention.

The Commission called upon the Government to release immediately all persons arbitrarily arrested and detained, including Kuwaitis and nationals of other States. Furthermore, it expressed special alarm at the continued policy of discriminatory and repressive acts against the Shia communities and the civilian population in southern Iraq. It requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Special Rapporteur, to take the necessary measures to

send human rights monitors to such locations as would facilitate improved information flows and assessment and would help in the independent verification of reports on the situation of human rights in Iraq. It also extended the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for Iraq for a further year.

On the situation of human rights in the Sudan, the Commission expressed its deep concern at the serious human rights violations in the Sudan, including summary executions, detentions without due process, forced displacement of persons and torture. It requested the Chairman of the Commission to appoint an individual of recognized international standing and expertise in human rights as special rapporteur on the situation of human rights there.

As for the situation of human rights in Zaire, the Commission deplored the continuing serious violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Zaire, particularly the practice of torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment, arbitrary detention and incommunicado detention; inhuman and degrading prison conditions, especially in the detention centres administered by the army; enforced disappearances; summary and arbitrary executions of persons who had exercised their right to freedom of opinion and expression; and denial of the right to a fair trial. It noted with indignation that force was used systematically to prevent and suppress peaceful gatherings and demonstrations and expressed its concern about the deterioration of the situation in Shaba Province. It recommended that the thematic rapporteurs and working groups of the Commission should continue to keep a close watch on the situation of human rights in Zaire.

By the resolution on the situation of human rights in Haiti, the Commission strongly condemned the overthrow of the constitutionally elected President, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, and the use of violence and military coercion and the subsequent deterioration of the situation of human rights in that country; and expressed its deep concern about the substantial deterioration of the human rights situation in Haiti since the coup d'état of September 1991 and the resulting increase in violations of human rights. It called upon the Member States of the United Nations and other international organizations to increase their humanitarian assistance to the people of Haiti, and decided to extend for a further year the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for that country.

Concerning the situation in Equatorial Guinea, the Commission expressed its serious concern at the persistence of politically motivated violations of human rights, such as arbitrary arrests and the use of torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment of political prisoners; and deplored the situation of women in that country.

The Commission called upon the Government of Equatorial Guinea to put an end to the use of military courts for trying offences and to permit the establishment of an independent judiciary. It requested the Chairman to appoint an individual of recognized international standing in the field of

human rights, who was entirely familiar with the situation in Equatorial Guinea, as a Special Rapporteur of the Commission whose mandate would be to make a thorough study of the violations of human rights.

By the terms of the resolution on the situation of human rights in Iran, the Commission expressed deep concern at continuing reports of violations of human rights, such as the high number or executions, cases of torture, the lack of guarantees of due process of law, discriminatory treatment of certain groups of citizens for reason of their religious beliefs, notably the Baha'is, and restrictions on the freedoms of expression, thought, opinion and the press. It noted that the situation of women left much to be desired. The Government of Iran was called upon to intensify its efforts to investigate and rectify the human rights issues raised by the Special Representative to comply with international instruments on human rights. Extending the mandate of the Special Representative for a further year, the Commission called upon the Government to cooperate fully with him.

In a resolution on the situation of human rights in Cuba, the Commission called upon that Government to permit the Special Rapporteur to carry out his mandate in full, in particular by allowing him to visit Cuba. It regretted profoundly the numerous unanswered reports of violations of basic human rights and fundamental freedoms that were described in the report of the Special Rapporteur and expressed particular concern at mounting intolerance for freedom of speech and assembly in Cuba.

The Commission recommended that the existing mechanisms of the Commission, in particular the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention and the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture, continue to give attention to the situation in Cuba and consider visiting Cuba.

By the terms of a resolution on the situation of human rights in Albania, the Commission called upon the Government of Albania to continue to adopt legislative and administrative measures to meet all the requirements under the relevant international human rights instruments. It encouraged technical cooperation between the Government and the Centre for Human Rights and the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights on the basis of the Agreement concluded on 13 February 1992.

Concerning the situation of human rights in Romania, the Commission welcomed the steps taken to establish a democratic and pluralist system of Government in Romania based on respect for human rights and the rule of law. It took note of the fact that respect for human rights in general was improving in Romania, although shortcomings remained to be overcome with regard to implementation of constitutional and legislative rules by local authorities.

With respect to the situation of human rights in Afghanistan, the Commission urged all the Afghan parties to undertake every possible effort to achieve a comprehensive political solution. It urged the unconditional release of all prisoners detained without trial on Afghan territory by rival groups; and called upon the authorities to investigate thoroughly the fate of those

persons who had disappeared during the conflict, to apply amnesty decrees equally to all detainees, and to reduce the period during which prisoners await trial.

The Commission strongly urged all the parties to the conflict to ensure the safety of the personnel of humanitarian organizations involved in humanitarian and economic assistance programmes. It also urged the authorities in Afghanistan to extend their full cooperation to the Commission on Human Rights and its Special Rapporteur.

On the human rights situation in southern Lebanon, the Commission condemned the ongoing Israeli violations of human rights in that country, particularly the arbitrary detention of civilians, the demolition of their homes, the confiscation of their property, their expulsion from the occupied territory, and the bombardment of civilian villages and areas. It demanded that Israel put an immediate end to those practices and implement the two Security Council resolutions calling for Israel's immediate, full and unconditional withdrawal from all Lebanese territory.

With regard to the situation of human rights in Togo, the Commission deplored the serious obstacles standing in the way of the process of democratic transition and encouraged additional efforts to ensure the continuation of that process, in full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It deplored the use of violence by the armed forces against peaceful demonstrators, and called upon the authorities in Togo to take all necessary measures to create favourable situations for all Togolese, including political opponents.

In a resolution on human rights violations on Bougainville, the Commission urged the Government of Papua New Guinea to permit international fact-finding missions access to Papua New Guinea, including Bougainville, to assist with the resolution of the conflict. It also urged the Government to recommence negotiations with all factions of the Bougainvillean people with a view to achieving peace and a mutually satisfactory solution to the armed conflict on Bougainville.

Concerning detention on Bougainville, the Commission endorsed the request to the Special Rapporteur on the study of treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements between States and indigenous populations to include the case of the agreements entered into between the indigenous people of Bougainville and the Government of Papua New Guinea in his report.

With regard to human rights in El Salvador, the Commission reiterated its appeal to all States to contribute to the consolidation of peace in El Salvador by supporting full compliance with the Peace Agreements and generously financing their implementation and the implementation of the National Reconstruction Plan. It decided to request the Secretary-General to extend by one year the appointment of the Independent Expert to report on human rights developments in El Salvador.

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Regarding the situation of human rights in Cambodia, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to ensure a continued United Nations human rights presence in Cambodia after the expiry of the mandate of UNTAC, including an operational presence of the Centre for Human Rights, in order to manage the implementation of educational and technical assistance and advisory services programmes and to ensure their continuation. Such a presence would also assist the Government of Cambodia established after the election in meeting its obligations under the human rights instruments, provide support to bona fide human rights groups in Cambodia, and contribute to the creation and strengthening of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights. It also requested the Secretary-General to appoint a special representative to maintain contact with the Government and people of Cambodia to guide and coordinate the United Nations human rights presence in that country.

Under a resolution on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, the Commission strongly condemned once again the large number of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions which continue to take place throughout the world, and appealed for urgent international action to combat and eliminate that phenomenon. It urged Governments to undertake all necessary and possible measures to lower the level of violence and the needless loss of life during situations of internal violence, disturbances, tensions and public emergency. It appealed to all Governments to ensure that all persons deprived of their liberty be treated with humanity and with respect for their inherent dignity; and requested the Special Rapporteur to continue monitoring the implementation of existing international standards on safeguards and restrictions relating to the imposition of capital punishment.

Concerning cooperation with representatives of United Nations human rights bodies, the Commission urged Governments to refrain from all acts of intimidation or reprisal against those who sought to cooperate or had cooperated with representatives of United Nations human rights bodies, or who had provided testimony or information to them. It requested all representatives of United Nations human rights bodies as well as human rights treaty monitoring bodies to continue to take urgent steps to help prevent the occurrence of intimidation and reprisals.

By a resolution on human rights and mass exoduses, the Commission invited all Governments and intergovernmental and humanitarian organizations concerned to intensify their cooperation and assistance in world-wide efforts to address the serious problems resulting from mass exoduses of refugees and displaced persons, and the causes of such exoduses. It urged the Secretary-General to attach a high priority and allocate the necessary resources to the consolidation and strengthening of the system for undertaking early-warning activities in the humanitarian area.

Under a resolution on forced evictions, the Commission urged Governments to undertake immediate measures aimed at eliminating the practice of forced evictions, urged them to confer legal security of tenure to all persons currently threatened with forced eviction and to adopt all necessary measures giving full protection against forced eviction. It recommended that all

Governments provide immediate restitution, compensation or appropriate alternative accommodation or land to persons and communities which had been forcibly evicted, following mutually satisfactory negotiations with the affected persons or groups. It requested the Secretary-General to compile an analytical report on the practice of forced evictions.

Concerning the situation of human rights in the territory of the former Yugoslavia, the Commission condemned, in the strongest terms, all violations of human rights in the former Yugoslavia by all sides to the conflict. It recognized that the primary responsibility for most of those violations was borne by the leadership in the territory under the control of Serbs in the Republics of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia, the commanders of Serb paramilitary forces, and political leaders in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). It condemned in particular the reprehensible acts identified by the Special Rapporteur as component parts of "ethnic cleansing", including forced transfer of populations, attacks on non-military targets, summary executions, arbitrary detention of civilians, the systematic practice of rape and withholding supplies of food and other essentials to civilian population centres.

The Commission also invited the Security Council to consider establishing a United Nations observer mission to investigate and report on alleged human rights violations in Kosovo, Sandjak and Vojvodina. It also decided to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on that region for one year.

Concerning the rape and abuse of women in the territory of the former Yugoslavia, the Commission strongly condemned the abhorrent practice of rape and abuse of women and children, which constituted a war crime. It expressed its outrage that the systematic practice of rape was being used as a weapon of war against Muslim women and children and as an instrument of the policy of "ethnic cleansing" by the Serbian forces. It requested the Special Rapporteur to pursue an investigation into the rape and abuse of women and children in the former Yugoslavia, including the dispatch of a team of experts.

By a resolution on human rights in the occupied Syrian Golan, the Commission condemned the persistence of Israel in changing the physical character, demographic composition, institutional structure and legal status of the occupied Syrian Golan, and emphasized that the displaced persons of the population must be allowed to return to their homes and to recover their properties. It determined that all measures taken by Israel to alter the character and legal status of the Syrian Golan were null and void. The Commission strongly condemned Israel for its attempt to impose forcibly Israeli citizenship and Israeli identity cards on the Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan.

On the violation of human rights in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine, the Commission condemned the policies and practices of Israel which violated the human rights of the Palestinian people in the territory occupied by Israel with military force, including Jerusalem. It affirmed the right of the Palestinian people to resist the Israeli occupation by all means.

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The Commission decided to appoint a Special Rapporteur with the following mandate: to investigate Israel's violations of international law and international humanitarian law; to receive communications, to hear witnesses and to report, with his conclusions and recommendations, to the Commission at its future sessions, until the end of the Israeli occupation of those territories.

In a second resolution on the same subject, the Commission strongly condemned the refusal of Israel to apply the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War to the occupied Arab territories. It strongly condemned Israel for its grave violations of Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, for continuing its policy of deporting Palestinian citizens and of expelling them from their homeland. It called upon Israel to allow all those who had been deported since 1967 to return to their homeland without delay.

Concerning Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories, the Commission reaffirmed that installation of Israeli civilians in the occupied territories was illegal and constituted a violation of the relevant provisions of the Geneva Conventions. It urged the Government of Israel to abstain from installing settlers, including immigrants, in the occupied territories.

In a resolution on the situation in occupied Palestine, the Commission reaffirmed the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination without external interference, and called upon Israel to comply with its obligations under the Charter and the principles of international law and to withdraw from the Palestinian and other Arab territories which it had occupied since 1967 by military force.

In a resolution on the situation of human rights in South Africa, the Commission strongly urged the Government of South Africa to implement fully the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry regarding the Prevention of Public Violence and Intimidation (the Goldstone Commission) and to carry out further investigations into the functioning and operation of the security forces and other existing armed units.

It called upon the Government to release all remaining political prisoners, including those on death row, and to allow the safe return of all political exiles and refugees without restriction. It reiterated the call to all Governments to observe fully the mandatory arms embargo against South Africa and requested the Security Council to continue to monitor effectively the implementation of the embargo.

Concerning the implementation of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, the Commission urged all States to accede to the Convention without delay. It called upon all States whose transnational corporations continued to do business with South Africa to take all appropriate steps to terminate their dealings with South Africa and urged the resumption of genuine and broad-based negotiations for a democratic and non-racial South Africa.

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Under a resolution on the adverse consequences for the enjoyment of human rights of political, military, economic and other forms of assistance given to the racist regime of South Africa, the Commission condemned the assistance rendered to South Africa, particularly in the military and nuclear fields, and expressed its conviction that this assistance constituted a hostile act against the people of South Africa and its neighbouring States. It called upon all Governments to end military and nuclear cooperation with South Africa, as well as assistance in the manufacture of arms and military supplies in South Africa.

With regard to monitoring the transition to democracy in South Africa, the Commission authorized the Subcommission to entrust Judith Sefi Attah with the task of presenting annually a report on the transition to democracy in South Africa. The report would include information on steps taken to prevent violence between different groups in South Africa and measures taken to investigate the alleged involvement of the South African security forces in fomenting violence. It would also analyse obstacles to the democratization of South Africa.

Under a resolution on assistance to Georgia in the field of human rights, the Commission urged the Government and the authorities in Abkhazia to intensify efforts to ensure that the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all inhabitants of Georgia were fully respected. The Commission appealed to the Government of Georgia to develop further legal and institutional measures to put an end to violence, including measures to terminate the existence of illegal paramilitary groups.

On assistance to Somalia in the field of human rights, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to appoint for a period of one year an independent expert to assist his Special Representative for Somalia in the development of a long-term programme of advisory services for re-establishing human rights and the rule of law, including a democratic Constitution, as well as the eventual holding of periodic and genuine elections by universal suffrage and secret ballot. It urged the Secretary-General to consider the establishment of a unit within the United Nations peace-keeping operation in Somalia to assist in the promotion and protection of human rights and in encouraging respect for humanitarian law.

With respect to advisory services and the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights, the Commission reaffirmed that the programme of advisory services should continue to provide practical assistance in the implementation of international conventions on human rights to those States which indicated a need for such assistance. Concerning activities under the Voluntary Fund, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to appoint a Board of Trustees for the Fund, composed of five persons, to advise him on its administration and operation.

With regard to assistance to Guatemala in the field of human rights, the Commission regretted the fact that, despite the undertaking given by the Government to guarantee full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, serious violations continued to occur. It urged both parties to

respect the rules of international humanitarian law in the internal armed conflict and urged the Government to intensify investigations to bring to justice all those responsible for violations of human rights. It requested the Secretary-General to continue to provide the Government and non-governmental organizations with advisory services in human rights, and requested him to extend the mandate of the Independent Expert so that he could continue to examine the human rights situation in Guatemala.

In a resolution on the use of mercenaries as a means of impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination, the Commission reaffirmed that the recruitment, use, financing and training of mercenaries should be considered as offences of grave concern to all States. It urged all States to prevent mercenaries from using any part of their territory to destabilize any sovereign State, and called upon all States that had not yet done so to consider taking early action to accede to or ratify the International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries.

Concerning the question of Western Sahara, the Commission reaffirmed its support for the organization and supervision by the United Nations of a referendum for self-determination of the people of Western Sahara. It endorsed the view of the Security Council that both parties must scrupulously abide by the cease-fire and abstain from any provocative behaviour endangering the settlement plan. It decided to follow the development of the situation in Western Sahara and to consider the question at its next session, as a matter of high priority.

With regard to the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, the Commission declared that all forms of racism and racial discrimination, particularly in their institutionalized form, such as apartheid, were among the most serious violations of human rights in the contemporary world. It urged Governments to take all necessary measures to combat new forms of racism and to encourage further positive change in South Africa.

By a resolution on measures to combat contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, the Commission recommended that the General Assembly take appropriate steps to launch a third decade to combat racism and racial discrimination, to begin in 1993. It recognized the importance of activities aimed at directly assisting minority and vulnerable groups to strengthen their participation in national economic, social and political life. Further, the Commission urged all Governments to undertake immediate measures to develop strong policies to combat racism effectively and eliminate discrimination. It decided to appoint, for a three-year period, a thematic Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia and related intolerance, and requested him to report to the Commission on an annual basis, beginning at its next session.

By the terms of a resolution on human rights in the administration of justice, the Commission urged Governments to pay more attention to the needs

of the institutions concerned with the administration of justice by allocating more resources to them. It also urged Governments to strengthen the existing national and regional human rights institutions, particularly in developing countries, and to include in their national development plans the administration of justice as an integral part of the development process. It appealed to the international community to assist legal aid services with a view to ensuring the promotion, protection and full enjoyment of human rights in Africa and other developing countries.

Concerning the right to freedom of opinion and expression, the Commission expressed its concern at the extensive occurrence in many parts of the world of detention, discrimination, harassment, including persecution and intimidation, directed at persons who exercise the right to freedom of opinion and expression. It requested the Chairman of the Commission to appoint, for a period of three years, a Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression.

Regarding human rights and forensic science, the Commission invited States to take measures to introduce into their rules and practices the international standards set forth in the Principles on the Effective Prevention and Investigation of Extra-legal, Arbitrary and Summary Executions, as well as the model autopsy protocol set forth in the Manual on the Effective Prevention and Investigation of Extra-legal, Arbitrary and Summary Executions._ The Commission also requested the Secretary-General to establish a list of forensic experts and experts in related fields who could be requested to help international bodies active in the field of human rights, Governments and the Centre for Human Rights in providing technical and advisory services. The experts could also help train local teams and assist in the reunification of families of the disappeared.

Concerning the question of a draft optional protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to extend to the Working Group on the draft protocol all necessary facilities for its meetings.

Under a resolution on the question of enforced or involuntary disappearances, the Commission invited all Governments to take appropriate legislative or other steps to prevent and punish that practice. The Commission urged the Governments concerned to cooperate with and assist the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, and once again urged the Governments concerned to take steps to protect the families of disappeared persons against any intimidation or ill-treatment to which they might be subjected. The Commission invited the Working Group to continue to consider the question of impunity, and to pay attention to cases of children subjected to enforced disappearance and children of disappeared persons.

With regard to arbitrary detention, the Commission requested the Working Group on that question to continue to seek and gather information from all sources. It also noted with concern that the practice of arbitrary detention

was facilitated and aggravated by several factors such as abuse of states of emergency, too vague a definition of offences against State security and the existence of special jurisdictions.

Concerning the status of the Convention against Torture, the Commission stressed the importance of strict adherence by States parties to the obligations under the Convention regarding the financing of the Committee against Torture and urged States parties that had not yet paid their assessed contributions to fulfil their obligations forthwith. It requested the Secretary-General to ensure the provision of appropriate staff and facilities for the effective performance of the functions of the Committee and urged all States to become parties to the Convention as a matter of priority.

On the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, the Commission appealed to all Governments, organizations and individuals in a position to do so to respond favourably to requests for contributions to the Fund, on a regular basis if possible, and to the fund-raising campaign launched in 1992. It called upon the Secretary-General to consider the possibility of arranging a special pledging session for the Fund in the context of the World Conference on Human Rights.

Concerning staff members of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies in detention, the Commission appealed once again to Member States to ensure respect for the rights of United Nations staff members and their families. It also requested the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to ensure that the human rights, privileges and immunities of United Nations staff members, experts and their families were fully respected and to seek redress and compensation of the damage caused to them when their rights were violated. It urged Member States to provide adequate and prompt information concerning the arrest or detention of United Nations staff members, experts and their families, and to grant the representative of the competent international organization access to them without delay.

With regard to torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, the Commission endorsed the recommendation of the Special Rapporteur that those who encouraged, ordered, tolerated or perpetrated prohibited acts, should be held responsible, and that whenever a complaint of torture was found to be justified, the perpetrators should be severely punished, especially the official in charge of the place of detention where the torture was found to have taken place. The Commission emphasized the importance of training programmes for law enforcement and security personnel and drew the attention of interested Governments to the possibilities offered in this connection by the United Nations programme of advisory services in the field of human rights.

As for the human rights of all persons subjected to any form of detention or imprisonment, the Commission reaffirmed the importance of the full and effective implementation of all United Nations standards on human rights in the administration of justice; it recognized the important role that non-governmental organizations, including professional associations of lawyers and judges, could play in promoting human rights in the administration of

justice. It invited the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to explore ways and means of cooperating with the human rights programme in the field of the administration of justice, with special emphasis on the effective implementation of norms and standards.

Concerning human rights and states of emergency, the Commission recommended the inclusion in the agenda of the forthcoming World Conference on Human Rights of an item entitled "Strengthening of protection of human rights during states of emergency". It also recommended to the Economic and Social Council that it endorse the request to Leandro Despouy, Special Rapporteur on human rights and states of emergency, to continue to update the list of states of emergency and to include in his annual report recommendations on inalienable or non-derogable rights.

On the question of the impunity of perpetrators of violations of human rights, the Commission requested El Hadji Guissé and Louis Joinet to draft a study on the impunity of perpetrators of violations of human rights in order to determine the scope of the phenomenon of impunity and to propose measures to combat that practice. It requested the Secretary-General to provide the Special Rapporteurs with any assistance required by them to be able to discharge their task.

As concerns the independence and impartiality of the judiciary, jurors and assessors and the independence of lawyers, the Commission entrusted Louis Joinet with the preparation of a report on practices and measures which had served to strengthen or to weaken the independence of the judiciary and the protection of practising lawyers in accordance with United Nations standards.

Under a decision on the right to a fair trial, the Commission expressed its appreciation to the Special Rapporteurs, Stanislav Chernichenko and William Treat, for their continued work on the study entitled "The right to a fair trial: current recognition and measures necessary for its strengthening", and requested them to continue their study.

Regarding the right to restitution, compensation and rehabilitation for victims of gross violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms, the Commission endorsed the request of the Subcommission to Theo van Boven, Special Rapporteur on that issue, to continue his study and to submit a final report which should include a set of conclusions and recommendations aimed at developing basic principles and guidelines with respect to that right.

On the study of the issue of the privatization of prisons, the Commission requested Claire Palley to prepare, without financial implications, an outline of the possible utility, scope and structure of a special study which might be undertaken on the issue of privatization of prisons.

On the realization of the right to development, the Commission recognized that the biggest obstacles to the realization of that right lay at the international macroeconomic level as reflected in the widening gap between the North and the South. It decided to establish, initially for a three-year

period, a thematic Working Group on the right to development, composed of 15 experts nominated by the Government to be appointed by the Chairman. It requested the Working Group to submit an initial, comprehensive report on the obstacles affecting the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development and to continue reporting to the Commission, on a yearly basis.

By a resolution on the effects on the full enjoyment of human rights of the economic adjustment policies arising from foreign debt, the Commission stressed the importance of alleviating the debt and debt-service burdens of developing countries in the framework of the realization of economic, social and cultural rights and affirmed that debt payments should not take precedence over the basic rights of the people of debtor countries to food, shelter, clothing, employment, health services and a healthy environment. It requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the repercussions and prospects of the debt crisis and adjustment programmes on the effective enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights of developing countries.

Regarding the question of human rights and extreme poverty, the Commission reaffirmed that extreme poverty and exclusion from society constituted a violation of human dignity and that urgent national and international action was therefore required to eliminate them. It appointed Leandro Despouy as Special Rapporteur on the question of human rights and extreme poverty with responsibility for preparing a study on that issue.

In a resolution on the special problems faced by developing countries in achieving social, economic and cultural rights, the Commission invited States parties to consider identifying specific national benchmarks designed to ensure the satisfaction of minimum essential levels of each of those rights. It requested the Secretary-General to invite the international financial institutions to consider organizing an expert seminar on the role of the financial institutions in the realization of economic, social and cultural rights.

Concerning the right to own property, the Commission decided to renew the mandate of the Independent Expert who is analysing the numerous forms of legal property ownership for one year. It decided to consider the report of the Independent Expert at its next session, and to conclude its consideration of the matter upon receipt of that report.

In a decision on the right to adequate housing, the Commission endorsed the decision of its Subcommission to appoint Rajindar Sachar as Special Rapporteur on promoting the realization of the right to adequate housing and to request him to carry out a two-year study on the issue.

Regarding human rights dimensions of population transfer, the Commission endorsed the decision of its Subcommission to entrust Awn Shawkat Al-Khasawneh and Ribot Hatano as Special Rapporteurs to prepare a preliminary study on the human rights dimensions of population transfer, including the implantation of settlers and settlements.

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With regard to the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Commission, alarmed by persistent reports that massive violations of the rights of the child continued worldwide, urged States parties to take immediate steps to ensure strict compliance with their obligations under the Convention. It appealed again to States parties to the Convention that had made reservations to review the compatibility of their reservations with the Convention and other relevant rules of international law.

The Commission also adopted a Programme of Action for the elimination of the exploitation of child labour and recommended that all States should adopt the necessary legislative and administrative measures to implement the Programme of Action at the national and international levels. It invited the Special Rapporteur on the sale of the children to bear the Programme of Action in mind when carrying out activities in accordance with his mandate, and requested all States to report to the Subcommission on measures adopted to implement the Programme of Action and on the effectiveness of such measures.

On the application of international standards for the human rights of detained juveniles, the Commission expressed the wish that the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Subcommission's Working Groups on Contemporary Forms of Slavery and on Detention should be represented at the meeting of experts to be organized on that question in 1994, together with the specialized non-governmental organizations, in particular those of juvenile court judges.

In another resolution, the Commission expressed grave concern at the plight of street children worldwide and reports of street children being involved in and affected by serious crime, drug abuse, violence and prostitution. It urged Governments to continue to seek comprehensive ways to prevent the marginalization of children in society and the emergence of the phenomenon of street children and to take measures to restore street children's full participation in society.

Concerning the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, the Commission recognized the importance of promoting the adoption by the business sector of a code of conduct for child protection. It encouraged Governments, national police and other law enforcement authorities to work closely with the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) to identify cases of concern to the Special Rapporteur's mandate; and encouraged States to consider raising the age of recruitment to 18 and to prohibit the use of child soldiers.

As for the consequences of armed conflicts on children's lives, the Commission deplored the continued practice of enlisting children in the armed forces. It expressed its deep concern and indignation at the serious consequences of armed conflicts on children, directly or indirectly involved, who were among the main victims of the indiscriminate use of anti-personnel mines. It encouraged efforts to promote international cooperation to assist in the detention and clearance of unremoved mines, and requested all States to prevent the indiscriminate use of anti-personnel mines and to protect and assist the victims.

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In a decision on the report on the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, the Commission requested its Subcommission to consider the possibility of appointing a special rapporteur to update Abdelwahab Bouhdiba's report on the exploitation of child labour, submitted to the Subcommission in 1981, and to extend that study to the problem of debt bondage.

In a decision on the application of international standards concerning the human rights of detained juveniles, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to provide all assistance to a meeting of experts on the application of the international standards concerning the human rights of detained juveniles.

By another resolution, the Commission drew attention to the right of everyone to have conscientious objections to military service as a legitimate exercise of the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion and appealed to States to enact legislation and to take measures aimed at exemption from military service on the basis of a genuinely held conscientious objection to armed service. It emphasized that forms of alternative service should be of a non-combatant or civilian character, in the public interest and not of a punitive nature.

Concerning the movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes, the Commission requested the industrialized countries to prohibit the export of hazardous and other wastes to parties which had prohibited their import. It invited all Governments to take legislative and other appropriate measures with a view to preventing illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products. The Commission urged the international community to give the necessary support to African and other developing countries in their efforts to implement the provisions of the existing international and regional instruments governing the transboundary movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes.

Under a resolution on human rights and bioethics, the Commission invited Governments and international bodies to inform the Secretary-General of activities being conducted to ensure that the life sciences develop in a manner respectful of human rights. It invited States to advise the Secretary-General of legislative or other measures taken to that effect, including the possible establishment of national consultative bodies, with a view to promoting exchanges of experience between such institutions.

By a decision on the guidelines for the regulation of computerized personal data files, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to report to it on the application of the guidelines within the United Nations system.

Concerning human rights and the environment, the Commission endorsed the request of the Subcommission to Fatma Zohra Ksentini, Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment, to prepare a second progress report on that issue.

Under a resolution on the question of a draft declaration on the right and responsibility of individuals, groups and organs of society to promote and

protect universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms, the Commission urged a working group to make every effort to submit a draft declaration on the subject to the Commission at its fiftieth session. The Commission would then continue to elaborate the declaration.

In a resolution on integrating the rights of women into the human rights mechanisms of the United Nations, the Commission condemned all acts of violence and violations of human rights directed specifically against women including those in situations of armed conflict; requested all special rapporteurs and working groups of the Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities regularly to include in their reports available information on human rights violations affecting women; and requested the secretariat to ensure that special rapporteurs, experts and working groups were fully apprised of the particular ways in which the rights of women were violated.

It urged Governments to include gender-aggregated data in the information that they provided. The Commission also decided to consider the appointment of a special rapporteur on violence against women at its fiftieth session, taking into account the work of the Commission on the Status of women on, inter alia, the issue of violence against women and the results of the World Conference on Human Rights.

In a resolution on the thematic procedures for human rights, the Commission encouraged Governments to respond expeditiously to requests for information made to them through the procedures. It also encouraged Governments encountering problems in human rights to cooperate more closely with the Commission through the pertinent thematic procedures and encouraged the thematic special rapporteurs and working groups to follow closely the progress made by Governments in the investigations carried out within the respective mandates.

The Commission requested the thematic special rapporteurs and working groups to include in their reports gender-disaggregated data; and requested the Secretary-General to consider the possibility of convening a meeting of all the thematic special rapporteurs and the Chairmen of working groups of the Commission in order to enable closer cooperation.

On the consequences on the enjoyment of human rights of acts of violence committed by armed groups that spread terror among the population and by drug traffickers, the Commission requested all special rapporteurs and working groups to continue paying particular attention to the adverse effect on the enjoyment of human rights of such acts, regardless of their origin. It encouraged non-governmental organizations to bear in mind the adverse effect of such acts, committed in many countries, and requested the Secretary-General to continue collecting information on the question and to make it available to special rapporteurs and working groups.

Under a resolution on the development of public information activities in the field of human rights, including the World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights, the Commission encouraged the Centre for Human Rights to

continue its review of the programme of translation of human rights instruments, with a view to increasing both the range of instruments translated and the number of language versions produced and making full use of the assistance of national non-governmental organizations. It requested the Department of Public Information to make full use of its available resources to produce audio-visual materials on human rights issues; stressed the need for close cooperation between the Centre for Human Rights and the Department, inter alia, in the implementation of the World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights; and encouraged all Member States to make special efforts, particularly in view of the World Conference on Human Rights, to provide, facilitate and promote publicity for the activities of the United Nations in human rights.

On the strengthening of the rule of law, the Commission reiterated the need to consider means by which the United Nations system could make a more significant contribution to the development and strengthening by Member States of the rule of law as an essential factor for the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. That would include the establishment of mechanisms that could contribute with substantial technical and financial assistance to operational human rights-related projects in areas such as law enforcement and the administration of justice.

Concerning regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights, the Commission invited States to consider agreements with a view to the establishment within their respective regions of suitable regional machinery for the promotion and protection of human rights; stressed the importance of the programme of advisory services in human rights and renewed its appeal to all Governments to consider making use of the possibilities offered by the United Nations under that programme. It invited the organizers of regional meetings convened in preparation for the World Conference on Human Rights to promote adherence to human rights treaties.

In a resolution on strengthening of the Centre for Human Rights, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to enhance the role and importance of the Centre as a coordinating unit within the United Nations system with respect to human rights; requested him to ensure that sufficient resources were accorded to the Centre to enable it to undertake all its functions, in full and on time.

With regard to the protection of human rights in the context of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), the Commission called upon all States to ensure that their laws, policies and practices introduced in the context of AIDS respected human rights standards; called upon all States to ensure the full enjoyment of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights by people with HIV or AIDS, their families and those in any way associated with them and people presumed to be at risk of infection, with particular attention to women, children and other vulnerable groups. It urged all States to include in their AIDS programmes measures to combat social stigmatization and discrimination.

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On the matter of civil defence forces, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to submit a report containing a summary of any additional information and comments received concerning civil defence forces and their relation to the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Concerning the national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, the Commission encouraged Member States to take appropriate steps to promote the exchange of information and experience concerning the establishment and operation of such institutions. It requested the Secretary-General to give high priority to requests for assistance in the establishment and strengthening of those national institutions; and requested the Centre for Human Rights to continue its efforts to enhance cooperation between the United Nations and regional and national institutions.

In a resolution on education and human rights, the Commission called upon States to step up efforts to eradicate illiteracy and to provide the necessary facilities to ensure the entire population access to all-round education as an essential element in its development; called upon States to join in efforts to introduce all-round education as a matter of high priority, and to include within it the subject of human rights. It recommended that particular account should be taken of the multi-ethnic character of the various societies and of respect for the identity and needs of groups such as minors, women, indigenous persons, racial minorities and the disabled.

Concerning regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Asian and Pacific region, the Commission encouraged United Nations development agencies in that region to coordinate with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in their efforts to promote the human rights dimension in their activities. It encouraged all States in the region to consider the establishment of regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights.

As to the effective functioning of the various mechanisms established for supervision, investigation and monitoring of the implementation of human rights treaty obligations, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on: (a) the original mandates assigned to the various treaty and non-treaty mechanisms established in that connection; (b) the international legal norms and standards on which existing non-treaty mechanisms now based their activities; (c) the various norms, criteria and practices established by each of the various existing mechanisms in regard to the admissibility of communications, and (d) the criteria used in practice by the Centre for Human Rights to channel communications received on those issues.

With regard to the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity in the field of human rights, the Commission called upon all Member States to refrain from activities inconsistent with the international legal framework; and requested the Secretary-General, on the basis of comments made by Governments, to prepare a comprehensive report on means of strengthening United Nations action

in human rights. It stressed the need for the World Conference on Human Rights to study all aspects of human rights on the basis of the principles of universality, indivisibility, objectivity, impartiality and non-selectivity.

Under a resolution on documentation and appointments, the Commission decided that all the reports submitted to it had to conform to the norms and principles established by the General Assembly and that, to the greatest extent possible, they should not surpass the limit of 32 pages. With regard to the appointment of special representatives, special rapporteurs and independent experts, the Commission requested the Chairman, in consultation with the Bureau, to do his utmost so that in appointing these persons, due account was taken of the need for nominations on as large a geographic basis as possible, so as to correct the present disequilibrium.

Under a resolution on internally displaced persons, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to mandate his Representative for a period of two years to continue his work aimed at a better understanding of the general problems faced by internally displaced persons and their possible long-term solutions, with a view to identify and means for improved protection for and assistance to such persons and called upon all Governments, regional intergovernmental organizations, the Department for Humanitarian Affairs, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Committee of the Red Cross and non-governmental organizations to continue to cooperate with the Representative.

Also approved was a draft resolution on procedure for special sessions of the Commission on human rights.

Concerning the status of the International Covenants on Human Rights, the Commission appealed strongly for universal adherence to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; recommended that States parties periodically review any reservations made in respect of the provisions of the International Covenants to ascertain whether they should be maintained; and requested the Secretary-General to consider ways of assisting States parties in the preparation of reports and to provide the Human Rights Committee with additional means to deal effectively and in a timely manner with the increasing workload under the Optional Protocols.

In another resolution, the Commission considered that successor States should succeed to international human rights treaties to which the predecessor States had been parties and continued to bear responsibilities.

Under a resolution on the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, the Commission called upon all States to give effect, as appropriate, to the principles contained in the Declaration on the rights of such persons adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/135. It called upon the Secretary-General to make available, at the request of Governments, as part of the programme of advisory

services and technical assistance of the Centre for Human Rights, qualified experts familiar with minority issues, to assist in existing or potential situations involving minorities.

As to implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of all Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination based on Religion or Belief, the Commission urged all States to take all appropriate measures to combat hatred, intolerance and acts of violence, including those motivated by religious extremism, and to encourage understanding, tolerance and respect in matters relating to freedom of religion or belief. It called upon all States to recognize, as provided in the Declaration, the right of all persons to worship or assemble in connection with a religion or belief and to establish and maintain places for those purposes.

Report of Sub-Commission

Regarding the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, the Commission welcomed the appointment by the Secretary-General of a Board of Trustees of the Fund; and appealed to all Governments, organizations and individuals in a position to do so to respond favourably to requests for contributions to the Fund, if possible on a regular basis.

Under a resolution on the report of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, the Commission appealed to all Governments to send representatives to the meetings of the Working Group and encouraged the Subcommission, including its Working Group, to continue to elaborate recommendations on establishing an effective mechanism for the implementation of the anti-Slavery Conventions. It recalled its request to the Secretary-General to designate the Centre for Human rights as the focal point for the coordination of activities in the United Nations for the suppression of contemporary forms of slavery.

With regard to the work of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, the Commission reaffirmed that the Subcommission could best assist the Commission by providing it with recommendations based on the different views and perspectives of independent experts as well as in the expert studies carried out under its auspices. It called upon States to nominate as members and alternates persons meeting the criteria of independent experts, who should discharge in that capacity their functions as members of the Subcommission, and to respect fully the independence of elected members.

In a resolution on human rights and disability, the Commission appealed to Member States to highlight the observance of the International Day of Disabled Persons on 3 December every year with a view to the achievement of the full and equal enjoyment of human rights and participation in society by persons with disabilities. It welcomed the establishment of a Ministers' Working Group and the decision taken to create an international mechanism for ministers to promote cooperation and international exchange with respect to

the status of persons with disabilities. It welcomed the adoption by the Commission on Social Development of the standard rules on the equalization of opportunities for disabled persons.

In a resolution on the International Year of the World's Indigenous People, 1993, the Commission called upon the United Nations system and Governments to develop policies in support of the objectives and the theme of the International Year and to strengthen the institutional framework for their implementation. It appealed to the specialized agencies, regional commissions, financial and development institutions and other organizations of the United Nations system to take into special account in their budgeting and in their programming the needs of indigenous people.

Regarding the report of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, the Commission welcomed the recommendation of the Subcommission resolution that the Chairman-Rapporteur of the Working Group, Erica-Irene A. Daes, be entrusted with the task of further elaborating the draft universal declaration on indigenous rights. It recommended to the Economic and Social Council that the Working Group be authorized to meet for 10 working days prior to the forty-fifth session of the Subcommission, for the purpose of completing a draft declaration on indigenous rights.

The Commission urged the Working Group to intensify its efforts to elaborate international standards based on a continued and comprehensive review of developments pertaining to the promotion and protection of the human rights of indigenous people and of the situation and aspirations of those people throughout the world. It also requested the Working Group and the Subcommission to complete their consideration of the draft universal declaration of indigenous rights.

Regarding the study on treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements between States and indigenous populations, the Commission endorsed the request of the Subcommission to the Special Rapporteur to submit a second progress report on the study to the Working Group concerned and to the Subcommission.

With regard to the International Year for the World's Indigenous People, the Commission endorsed the decision of the Subcommission to authorize the Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, Erica-Irene Daes, to represent it at the opening ceremonies for the International Year in New York.

In a resolution on the effective functioning of bodies established pursuant to United Nations human rights instruments, the Commission endorsed the conclusions and recommendations aimed at streamlining, rationalizing and otherwise improving reporting procedures. It urged States parties to make every effort to meet their reporting obligations and urged all States parties to meet without delay and in full their financial obligations under the relevant human rights instruments. It requested the Secretary-General to ensure that recent periodic reports of States parties to treaty-monitoring

bodies and the summary records of Committee discussions pertaining to them were made available to the United Nations Information Centres in the countries submitting those reports.

By a resolution on the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, the Commission urged all Member States to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Convention as a matter of priority, and expressed the hope that it would enter into force at an early date. It requested the Secretary-General to provide all facilities and assistance necessary for the promotion of the Convention.

By a resolution on the rationalization of the work of the Commission, the Commission expressed concern about the considerable increase of its workload, including the growing number of resolutions adopted by the Commission over the years. It decided to consider the rationalization of its work at its next session, and affirmed that such a comprehensive process could only take place through consultations and on the basis of consensus in the Commission.

Concerning the organization of work at its fiftieth session, the Commission decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council that it authorize the Commission to hold forty additional meetings at its next session.

Background on Human Rights Commission

The Commission on Human Rights is the principal policy-making organ in the field of human rights within the United Nations system. Established in 1946 by the Economic and Social Council, the Commission has an extensive mandate which allows it to deal with a wide range of human rights issues. In addition to preparing studies, making recommendations and drafting international human rights instruments, it also undertakes special tasks assigned to it by the General Assembly or the Council, including the investigation of alleged human rights violations. In addition, it provides for the coordination of human rights activities in the United Nations system. The Commission, since 1992, has been authorized to meet exceptionally to consider particularly grave human rights situations, provided that a majority of its members so agree. Two such special sessions were held in 1992.

Composition, Officers of Commission

The members of the Commission are as follows: Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Barbados, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Guinea-Bissau, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Kenya, Lesotho, Libya, Malaysia, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Togo, Tunisia, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela and Zambia.

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The Officers for the session were: Mohamed Ennaceur (Tunisia), Chairman; Cornelis Flinterman (Netherlands), Roberto Garreton (Chile), and Soemadi Brotodiningrat (Indonesia), Vice-Chairmen; and Zdzislaw Kedzia (Poland), Rapporteur.

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Press Release

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Biographical Note

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CHAIRMAN OF COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF SEVEN NEW SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS

GENEVA, 2 April (UN Information Service) -- The Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights, Mohamed Ennaceur (Tunisia), this morning announced the designation of seven country or thematic Special Rapporteurs, as decided by the Commission at its recently concluded forty-ninth session.

They are as follows:

-- Robert Dossou (Benin), as Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance (resolution 1993/20 of 2 March). Mr. Dossou is a lawyer, former doyen of the Faculty of Law of Cotonou, member of the International Commission to Investigate the Situation of Human Rights in Iran and of the African Association of International Law, and one of the initiators of the law leading to the creation of a National Human Rights Commission in Benin.

-- Nigel S. Rodley (United Kingdom), as Special Rapporteur on torture (resolution 1993/40 of 5 March). Mr. Rodley is the doyen of the Faculty of Law of Essex University, former legal counsellor for Amnesty International and author of numerous publications relating to human rights.

-- Gaspar Biro (Hungary), as Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Sudan (resolution 1993/60 of 10 March). Mr. Biro is a lawyer, former Independent Expert of the Commission on the situation of human rights in Sudan and a researcher at the Dunataj Institute in Budapest.

-- Abdelfattah Amor (Tunisia), as Special Rapporteur charged with examining incidents and measures incompatible with the provisions of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance based on Religion or Belief (resolution 1993/25 of 5 March). Mr. Amor is former doyen of the Faculty of Law of the University of Tunis, founding President of the Tunisian Association of Constitutional Law, Secretary-General and founder of the International Academy of International Constitutional Law, founding member of the Union of Arab Jurists (1975) and alternate member of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. He is the author of numerous publications on human rights.

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For information media--not an official record

-- Abid Hussain (India), as Special Rapporteur on the freedom of opinion and of expression (resolution 1993/45 of 5 March). Mr. Hussain was Government Secretary for Heavy Industry and for Trade, Ambassador to the United States with the rank of Minister of State (1990-1992), Vice-President of the Rajiv Gandhi Institute, Chairman of three national journals and member of the Administrative Council of the Nehru Museum and Library. He was named Man of the Decade by the Indian Association of the Mass Media.

-- Alejandro Artucio Rodriguez (Uruguay), as Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Equatorial Guinea (resolution 1993/69 of 10 March). Mr. Artucio is a lawyer, a doctor of law and social sciences, Juridical Counsellor with the International Commission of Jurists and author of numerous publications relating to human rights in general and to the situation of certain countries, including Equatorial Guinea.

-- Rene Felber (Switzerland), as Special Rapporteur for the occupied Arab territories (resolution 1993/94 A of 19 February). Mr. Felber has recently resigned, for reasons of health, from his function as Federal Councillor and Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, a post he has held since 1988. He has been a member of the Social Democratic Party since 1958, Mayor of Le Locle from 1964 to 1980, member of the Neuchatel Parliament from 1965 to 1976, National Councillor from 1967 to 1981, member of the Federal Council from January 1988 and Vice-President since 1991.

The Chairman, Mr. Ennaceur, indicated that these appointments were the result of consultations which he had organized with members of the bureau of the Commission, based on a list of candidates meeting the "necessary conditions of independence, competence and experience to assume the tasks of Special Rapporteur", taking into account the recommendations of the Commission aimed at reducing the present imbalance in the distribution of posts of special rapporteurs and independent experts (resolution 1993/94 B).

The Chairman also drew attention to the names of two personalities who, according to information he had been able to gather during the consultations, received considerable support for occupying the posts of Representative of the Secretary-General for Cambodia and for Somalia. They were, respectively, Corazon Aquino, former President of the Philippines, and Kori Kumado, Professor of the Faculty of Law of Ghana.

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SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON FORMER YUGOSLAVIA SENDS TEAM TO EASTERN BOSNIA FOR FIRST-HAND INFORMATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION THERE

GENEVA, 2 April (UN Information Service) -- The Commission on Human Rights Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the territory of the former Yugoslavia, Tadeusz Mazowiecki, sent on 1 April a team to eastern Bosnia and Herzegovina to obtain first-hand information on the present situation of human rights in that area.

Allegations of serious violations of human rights and humanitarian law concerning all parties to the conflict have been received. The objective of the fact-finding mission consists of attempting to gather reliable testimonies regarding those allegations from those directly affected by the recent hostilities in eastern Bosnia and Herzegovina, in particular refugees and displaced persons. The mission intends, initially, to visit Tuzla, and hopes subsequently to reach all places where victims of violations from that area have sought refuge.

Upon the return of the mission to Geneva, the Special Rapporteur will report on the team's findings to the Commission and, through the Secretary-General, to the Security Council.

The Special Rapporteur was appointed by the Commission in August 1992 to investigate, first-hand, the human rights situation in the former Yugoslavia, in particular within Bosnia and Herzegovina, and to make recommendations to bring violations to an end as well as to prevent their future occurrence.

Furthermore, on 23 February, the Commission decided, by consensus, to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for one more year and requested him to continue to submit periodic reports to the Commission and to the Secretary-General, who will make them available to the Security Council.

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For information media—not an official record